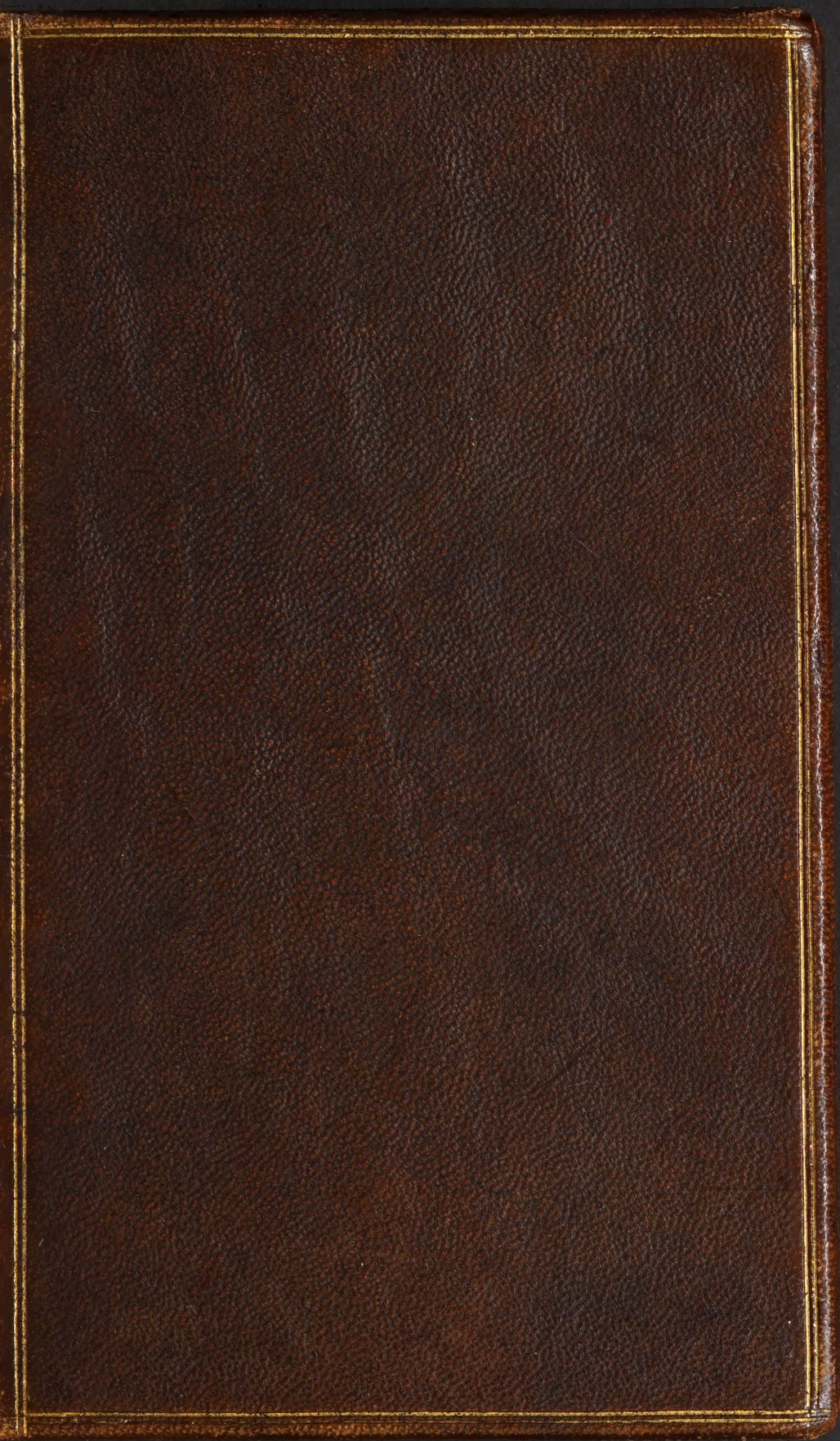


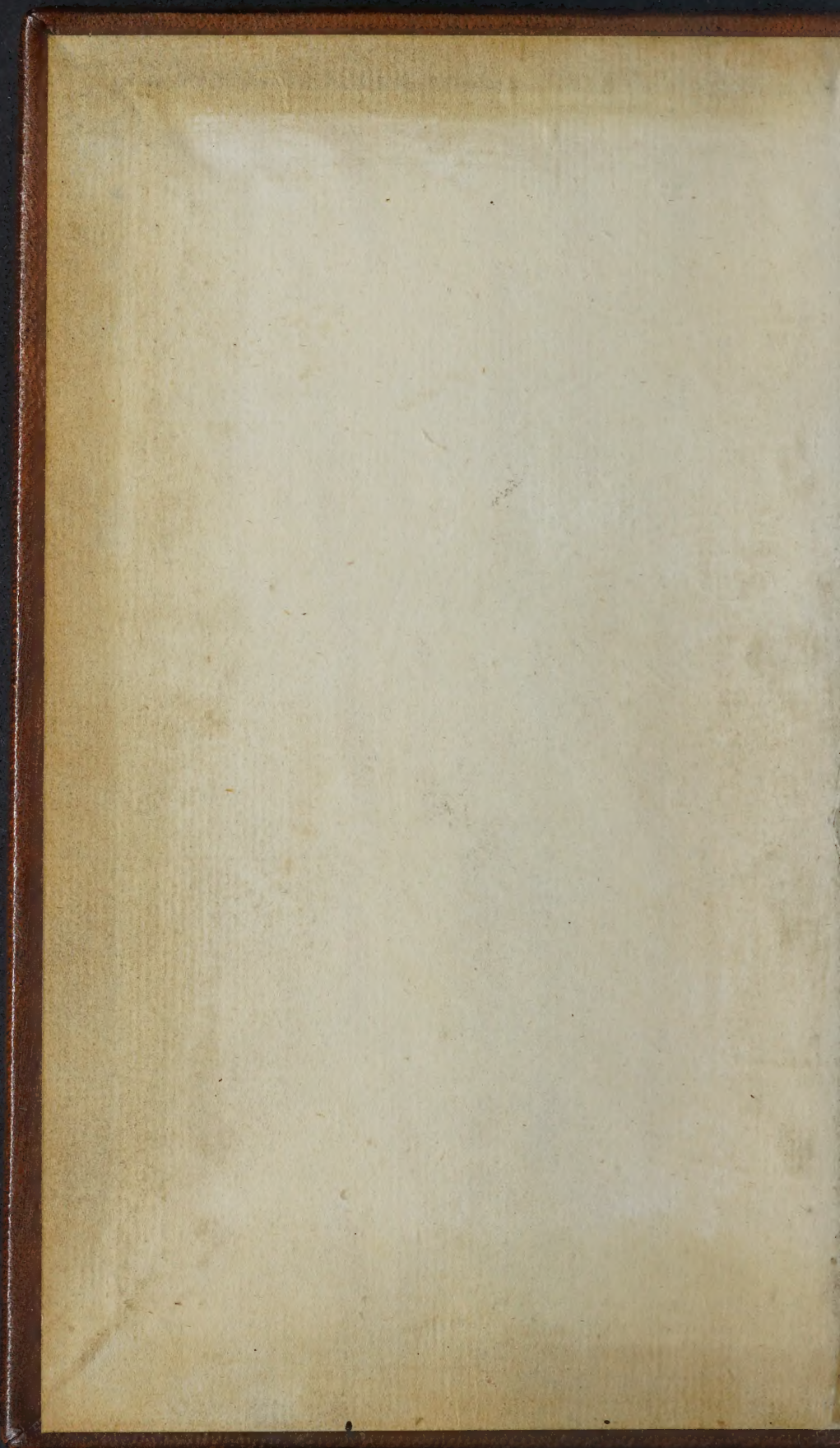


FLETCH
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LETTERS

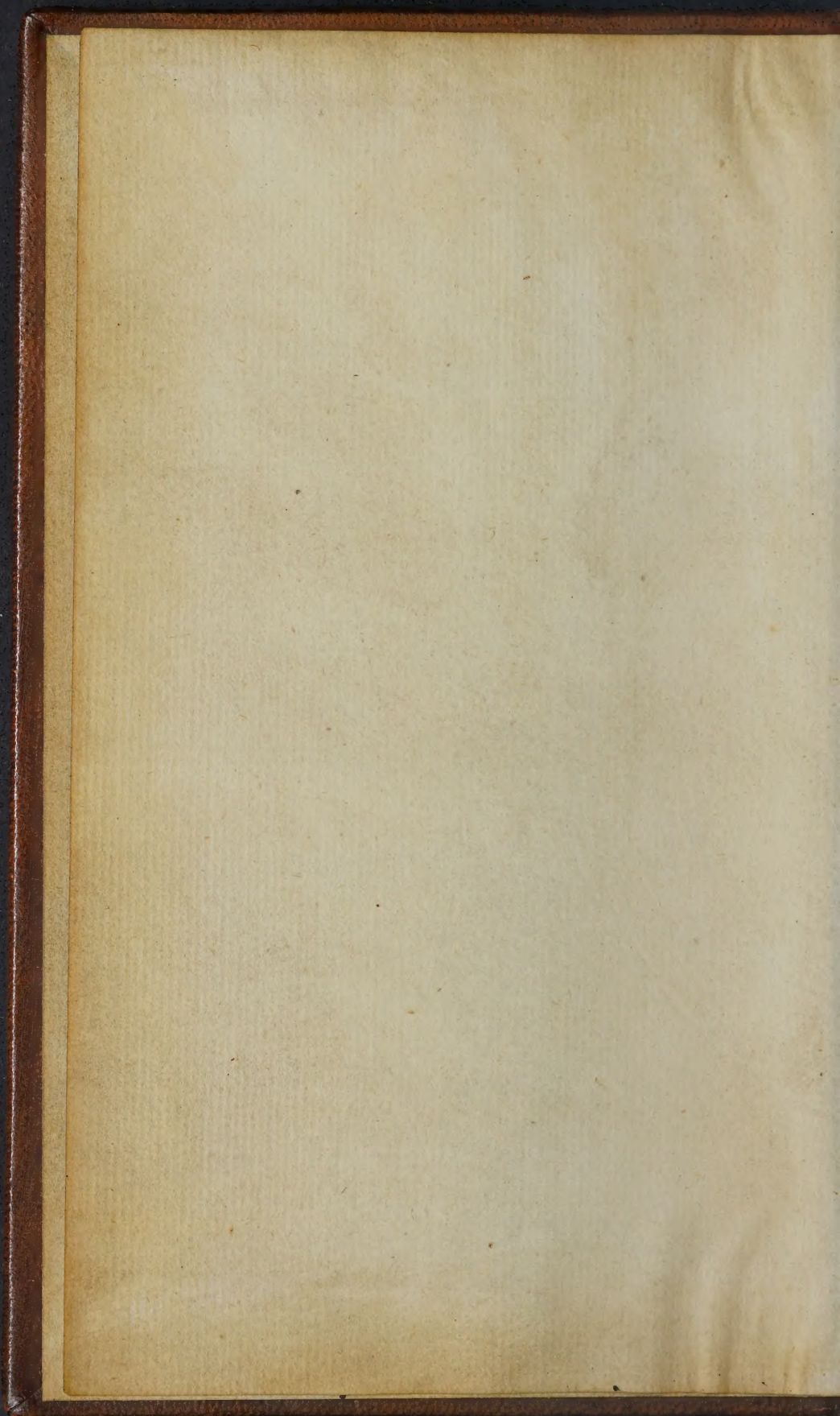








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LETTERS
FROM
Mr. FLETCHER CHRISTIAN,
CONTAINING
A NARRATIVE OF
THE
TRANSACTIONS
ON BOARD
HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP BOUNTY,
Before and after the Mutiny,
WITH HIS SUBSEQUENT
VOYAGES AND TRAVELS
IN
SOUTH AMERICA.

London:

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETOR, AND PUBLISHED BY
H. D. SYMONDS, NO. 20, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1796.

[PRICE THREE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.]

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LETTER I.

TOTALLY secluded as I have been for a period of seven years from all intercourse with my native country; cut off from all communication with those friends and connexions, whose memory I shall ever hold most dear and sacred; it affords me unspeakable satisfaction to find that I have at length succeeded in my endeavours to surmount the various obstacles which lay in the way of our correspondence. Never have I experienced a more joyful surprize, than the receipt of your kind letter occasioned.

You reason well in what you urge respecting the part I acted in Captain Bligh's unfortunate expedition. I am sensible of the justice of your remarks. That the public curiosity should be strongly excited to know the motives which could induce me to behave in so extraordinary a manner towards a gentleman from whom I had received such repeated proofs of kindness;—this, my friend, I am not at all surprized to hear. You urge me to give an account of my proceedings: you tell me, that I am in honor bound to render this account: that not only my

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own character and reputation in life require this of me ; but that my family, my friends, and relatives, have the most indubitable, the most imperious claim upon me. That it is, in short, a duty I owe at once to myself, to my friends, and to society at large. As such, I cannot hesitate a moment to comply with your request.

I send you, therefore, a brief, but candid and faithful journal, of my voyage and adventures. For the truth of every particular I advance, I most solemnly pledge my honor. In how far this declaration may obtain me credit with *others*, I do not pretend to determine ; with *you*, I hope and flatter myself, all further protestations will be needless.

Prudence will immediately suggest to you the necessity of the precautions I have used with respect to the omission or occasional alteration of certain proper names, after my separation from Captain Bligh. These instances are, however, very rare, and have no effect upon the narrative. For the rest I will venture to affirm, upon the faith and honour of a man, that, this one single point excepted, I stand acquitted to my own conscience of the slightest charge of wilful misrepresentation. Much less have I “ aught extenuated, or aught set down in malice.” Sensible myself of my errors, I have not attempted to disguise or conceal them from others ; and although, with respect to the deed already done, repentance may be said to come too late ; ’tis not, I trust, too late for me to draw from the past a wholesome lesson for the regulation of my future conduct.

Not,

Not, however, to detain you any longer with this moralizing strain, I shall, without further preface, proceed immediately to the promised detail of my journal.

On the 24th of November, 1787, we received our final orders from Lord Hood, who at that time was commander in chief at Spithead; and, on the 28th, dropped down to St. Helen's. The wind blowing strong to the westward, we were obliged to come to an anchor; and, notwithstanding we made several attempts to get down Channel, were constantly foiled in our endeavours, and driven back to Spithead.

Early on the morning of the 23d of December we weighed; and the wind being favorable, passed through the Needles; we ran down Channel with a strong easterly breeze, which very soon encreased to a hard gale. On Christmas-day the weather was somewhat calmer; but the three following days the wind and waves raged with such violence, that we carried away the major part of the yards and spars that were lashed in the chains; and, a very heavy sea breaking right on our starboard beam, staved all the boats; insomuch that it was with the utmost difficulty we could secure them from being washed overboard. The stern of the ship was so much shaken by the repeated shocks of a heavy following sea, that she made a good deal of water ast; in consequence of which a large quantity of our bread was rendered totally useless.

The wind subsiding into a pleasant breeze, chiefly from the northward, we made the island of Teneriffe on the 4th of January, 1788; and the next morning came to an anchor in the harbour of Santa Cruz, where we found a Spanish

packet, an American brig, and several other vessels. As soon as our ship was anchored, I received orders to wait on the governor, to acquaint him with the motive of our visit; and request permission to obtain refreshments and repair our damages. My reception was as gracious as could be wished; but, with respect to the article of saluting, which formed a part of my mission, the characteristic hauteur of the Spaniard displayed itself in very conspicuous colours, most pompously declining that ceremony; as his excellency never returned an equal number of guns to those of inferior rank.

Teneriffe is the principal of the Canary islands, and lies opposite the coast of Mauritania, in Barbary. It is about 150 miles in circumference; the soil tolerably fertile; and the country, upon the whole, pretty populous and rich. Since anno 1496, it has been subject to Spain. The harbour of Santa Cruz was stormed, anno 1657, by Admiral Blake.*

The

* Admiral Blake, cruising off Cadiz, anno 1657, received intelligence that the Spanish fleet, from Rio de la Plata, had put into Santa Cruz. In consequence of this information the Admiral bore immediately away for Teneriffe, and on the 13th arrived off the harbour's mouth; where he descried 16 large ships riding at anchor, with springs on their cables, and drawn up in the form of a crescent. Near the harbour's mouth stood a castle, mounted with six two-and-forty pounders, and supported by seven other forts, mounting from three to six guns, and joined to each other by a line of communication mounted with musquetry. Don Diego Diagues, the Spanish admiral, had, for the greater security of his fleet, ordered all the smaller vessels to be moored close in shore, stationing six large galleons
a little

The most remarkable object in Teneriffe is undoubtedly the Peak, which certainly appears one of the highest mountains

a little further out, with their broadsides to the sea. Captain Stayner, in the *Speaker* frigate, leading the British line, ran into the harbour with great gallantry; and, without paying any regard to the forts, which kept up a heavy and incessant fire, began the attack on the Spanish fleet. The rest of Blake's squadron followed in close succession; and so well was their cannonade directed, so violent and impressive, that in a few hours the Dons finding their quarters too hot for them, quitted their ships, and sought safety on shore. Blake seeing it impracticable to carry the enemy's fleet off, ordered the vessels to be set on fire, after having very humanely given the poor devils time to make good their landing. His orders were so effectually carried into execution, that, except two ships which were sunk in the action, the whole of the Spanish fleet were entirely consumed.

Meanwhile the Dons, who had been driven from their forts, having in some measure recovered from their panic, resumed a heavy fire upon the English; and the wind at the same time blowing fresh into the harbour's mouth, rendered the situation of the British extremely critical; as they lay exposed to the batteries, which, in a short time, must infallibly have totally disabled them from getting out of the harbour. Fortunately for Blake, the wind suddenly shifted in his favour, affording the British fleet an opportunity of escaping out of this imminent jeopardy; which they did immediately; leaving the Spaniards in consternation and amazement at the temerity of their daring foes. This is allowed to have been one of the most remarkable actions that ever happened at sea. "It was so miraculous," writes Lord Clarendon, "that all men who knew the place, wondered that any sober man, with what courage soever endowed, would have undertaken it; and they could hardly persuade themselves to believe what they had done; whilst the Spaniards comforted themselves with the belief, that they were devils, and not men, who had destroyed them in such a manner."

tains in the world, owing to its slender base, its insulated situation, and the abruptness of its elevation; which seems to give it a superiority to the Andes, to whose height it does not arrive at more than two thirds. Its summit is generally envelopped in the clouds, and covered with eternal snow.

There is in this island a most humane and charitable institution for the support of the poor, which reflects great honour upon its founder, the present governor of Teneriffe, who himself undertakes the chief superintendence of it. It is called the Hospicio; and affords a comfortable asylum to about 250 persons of both sexes. The girls, of whom there are upwards of 100, are neatly and uniformly habited; and the cheerfulness depicted in their countenances, is thoroughly indicative of happiness and content. They are employed in spinning and weaving ribbons, tapes, coarse cloths, &c. which they manufacture very skilfully through every stage of the process, dying even of the colours not excepted, from the raw materials. The time limited for their stay in this House of Industry is five years; at the expiration of which term they are at liberty to marry; and for their dowry are presented with the implements of their labour, together with a sum of money proportionable to the state of the Society's fund. The men and boys are employed in coarser work—such as weaving of blankets, and different species of woollens. When superannuated, or otherwise rendered infirm, they are humanely taken care of for the remainder of their lives.

Teneriffe exports annually upwards of twenty thousand pipes of wines, and about half that quantity of brandy. Of the former the Dutch island of St. Eustatia takes the greater part; with which they supply the West Indies, not unfrequently under the denomination of Madeira. Corn they have none to spare, the produce of the island not being sufficient for their own consumption; on which account they are glad to procure flour and grain from the Americans, in exchange for their wine.

Santa Cruz, the capital of Teneriffe, extends about half a mile in length; the houses are well and regularly built, but the streets are badly paved. The inhabitants are not subject to such a variety of diseases as the Europeans; but epidemical distempers are generally attended with very fatal consequences; more especially the small pox, the malignity of which they have latterly endeavoured to counteract by inoculation. Ships are not permitted to have any communication with the shore, unless they are provided with proper bills of health.

Our stay at Teneriffe lasted no longer than was absolutely requisite for the repairs of the ship, and for laying in the necessary supplies of wood, water, refreshments, &c. Hereupon we sailed from Santa Cruz on the 10th of January; and as soon as we were out at sea, Captain Bligh ordered the people to be at three watches, complimenting me with the charge of the third watch. At the same time he put us at twothirds allowance; it being his intention to proceed directly to Otaheite, without touching at any other port in his way. The following morning, calling all hands upon deck, he acquainted us with the nature of his voyage; that we were to make the best
of

of our way round Cape Horn to the Society Islands, in 18 degrees south latitude, and 210 east longitude. From thence, after having taken in our lading of bread-fruit trees, we were to proceed through Endeavour Straights to the Straights of Sunda, or to the eastern side of Java; where any bread-fruit trees, that might have perished or been injured, might be replaced by others. From Java we were to steer round the Cape of Good Hope, to the small Antilles, or Windward Islands: and, after touching at St. Vincent's, where we were directed to deposit half of our cargo of plants, in his Majesty's Botanical garden, make the best of our way to Jamaica, and there land the remainder of our plants: hereupon to proceed with all possible dispatch to Spithead.

This expedition was planned and undertaken by government, at the earnest solicitation of the West India merchants, in order to introduce the bread-fruit tree and other valuable plants, into the West India islands. For this useful purpose the ship had been fitted up in a very peculiar and ingenious manner, to receive the plants; the care of which was intrusted to two skilful botanists recommended by Sir Joseph Banks; and no expence had been spared to ensure the desired success.

On Thursday, the 7th of February, we passed the equator; on which occasion the usual ceremony of shaving and ducking took place on all those who had not crossed the line before, unless they bought off the penalty with a bottle of rum. During our passage through the tropics, the weather was in general fine, though hazy; which dispersed at sun-set, but most frequently collected again by break of day. On the 26th, the wind blowing strong from the

the westward, with sudden and violent squalls, several insects, as butterflies, horseflies, &c. were blown on board; but we saw no birds except a few waterfowl. By our reckoning we were about 100 leagues from the coast of Brazil.

Sunday, the 2d of March, after prayers, Captain Bligh presented me with a written order, constituting me an acting lieutenant. On the 10th, we hove to, and sounded, but got no ground with 160 fathoms. We now saw some prodigious large whales, with spout holes in the back part of the head. The following day, Quintal, one of the seamen, in consequence of a complaint from the master, received two dozen lashes, for insolence, and neglect of duty.

On the 23d, early in the morning, we descried the coast of Terra del Fuego; but the wind being adverse, we passed Staten Land to the Eastward, in preference of hazarding a tedious passage through the Streights Le Maire. To avoid the heavy squalls that blow from shore, we bore aloof, never approaching within less than six leagues of the coast, till the 24th, when we entirely lost sight of the land.

Our passage round Cape Horn was rendered extremely difficult, and at last impracticable, by the continual squalls and bad weather we encountered. The morning of the 31st, we were tantalized by a fine breeze springing up at N. N. E. which gave us the most flattering hopes that we should accomplish our purpose of doubling this redoubtable promontory with ease; but our hopes were very soon defeated, for the wind shifting at night, the weather became more boisterous and unfavourable than before. The

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gale increased hourly, till it blew one of the most tremendous storms I ever encountered ; the wind continually shifting, so that the sea ran mountains high, and broke upon us in every direction. Our ship, however, being a good sea boat, we lay to tolerably easy ; but the continuance of the bad weather strained her planks to that degree, that we were obliged to keep the pumps constantly at work ; and notwithstanding all our exertions, she made a great deal of water, which rendered our situation extremely uncomfortable. To add to our chagrin, we had the mortification to find that we were hourly losing ground.

April the 13th, the ship pitching with a short and quick motion, the Cook lost his foothold, and fell with such violence that he broke one of his ribs. Another of the crew dislocated his shoulder ; and the gunner, who had charge of a watch, being laid up with the rheumatism, doubled my duty. This tempestuous weather lasted, with little variation, to the 20th, when the wind abated to a slack calm ; which, however, was not of long continuance. In a few hours the wind began to blow again from the Westward, accompanied with a heavy fall of snow and violent hail storms.

Most of our live stock, the hogs excepted, being destroyed by the severity of the weather, it proved a very seasonable relief to us, that we had the good fortune to catch a considerable number of water-fowl ; such as Albatrosses, Petterels, Pentadas, &c. which supplied us with fresh provisions, of which we stood in great need. At first they tasted very rank and fishy ; but Captain Bligh, adverting to the poulterer's method of cramming
turkies

turkies, was willing to try the same experiment upon them. Accordingly we kept them cooped up ; and, cramming them plentifully with ground corn, found the experiment succeed to admiration. They grew remarkably fat, and proved equal, if not superior, in flavour to any thing of the duck and goose kind.

After combating a whole month with the most tempestuous weather, and having no ground to flatter ourselves with the hopes of a favourable change, as the season was now so far advanced, the Captain determined to give up the contest, and bear away for the Cape of Good Hope. Accordingly, on the evening of the 22d, he ordered the helm a-weather, to the unspeakable satisfaction of the whole crew.

With a strong Westerly breeze and a flowing sheet, we stood away to the N. E. and E. N. E. in a direct course, till in the latitude of Tristan de Cunha ; when we hauled our wind, wishing to make this island, and made short tacks during the night ; but, in the morning, no land appearing in sight, we resumed our course to the eastward. No signs of land being visible at noon, we repeated our observations ; and finding that we were too much to the Southward, altered our course once more, and steered N. E. till six o'clock in the evening ; when, being still unable, with a clear horizon, to discover any indications of the vicinity of land, and wet and cloudy weather coming on soon after, it was determined to relinquish our design of touching at Tristan de Cunha, and to shape our course directly for the Cape of Good Hope.

The 22d, in the forenoon, we descried the Table Mountain; and on the 24th, came to an anchor in Simon's bay. After saluting the fort, which the Dutch returned by an equal number of guns, the Captain went on shore, and sent dispatches to Cape-town, to inform the governor of our arrival.

Our first care was to complete the necessary repairs of the ship, which indeed stood in great need of refitting. The severe weather we had encountered had not only caused her to leak exceedingly, but had, moreover, done great damage to our sails and rigging. Our stock of provisions was likewise, from the same cause, in a very critical state; especially the bread, great part of which was totally spoiled. From His Excellency Mr. Vander Graaf, the Governor, we received, in this point of view, every possible accommodation and assistance.

Having completed our repairs, replenished our stores, and rested ourselves from our late fatigues, we set sail from the Cape Tuesday the first of July, after a stay of nearly six weeks. The following day we lost sight of land, and steered our course E. S. E. the weather being very variable, with frequent storms of thunder and lightning. We saw abundance of sea-fowl, and especially some very large Albatrosses, which measured between seven and eight feet from wing to wing.

On the 20th we essayed a very smart gale, which lasted till the 22d with great violence, and brought us to our bare poles. At length, the storm abating, we continued our course to the Eastward, till we made the island of St. Paul on the 28th. We coasted along the Southern side,
within

within about a league of the shore; near which we saw several whales sporting in unweildy gambols. St. Paul's island is about five miles in length from E. to W. and three in breadth from N. to S. It is very rocky, and appears covered with a pleasing verdure. At the East end rises a very high rock, in the form of a sugar loaf; where it is said there is good holding ground for the largest vessels.

Passing this island, we kept on our old course at E. S. E. experiencing much bad and variable weather till August the 19th, when we made Van Dieman's land. We came to an anchor the next day in the afternoon; but the Captain thinking we were too far from the shore, we weighed again at day break, and run further in about a good mile from the beach. After the ship was safely moored, I went on shore with the Captain, to search for the most convenient place to wood and water at. We found some excellent water not many paces from our landing place, being a gully, which serves as a reservoir to collect the rains, which had swelled it to the size of a small lake, though in the summer months it is always dry. We hauled the seine, but with very little success, taking only a few flounders and sea foxes.

The next morning I was ordered to superintend a wooding party, accompanied by the gunner. This proved a very tedious and troublesome task, as the surf ran so high, that the wood was obliged to be rafted off; and the men were quite fatigued before they had completely watered the ship.

The

The trees in this island are in general very tall and strait, many of them growing nearly to the height of two hundred feet. They do not, however, seem to be calculated for maritime purposes. Most of those we felled were rotten at the heart ; and as for the sound trees, they are as hard and as heavy as the iron wood.

Here are many birds of prey, as eagles, vultures, &c. I saw likewise a kind of heron, with the most brilliant plumage, resembling the bronze pigeon. Parroquets, of all kinds, were seen in great numbers.

The lake from whence we had our water, supplied us with some fine fresh fish. I accordingly got my angling tackle from on board, and had the good fortune to catch some of the finest trout I ever saw. We were likewise more successful now with the seine than before, and took fish enough for all hands. Of shell-fish we found a great quantity of muscles, and some spider crabs ; but the latter were not much relished, being out of season. Several whales made their appearance in the Bay, furnished, like those we had seen before, with two spout-holes in the back of the head.

Notwithstanding the frequent attempts we made during the latter part of our stay here, we could scarce prevail upon the natives to have any communication with us. They are a nimble, active, and I believe perfectly inoffensive people ; but very much reserved and upon their guard with respect to strangers. Both sexes go quite naked ; their colour is as dark as that of the African ; their stature rather below the middle size ; and their skin tatowed or scarified about the breast and shoulders. When they

they conversed with us they squatted down on their heels, their knees being drawn up so as just to close in with their arm-pits. We particularly noticed one man among them, of whom honorable mention is made in Captain Cook's last voyage, as being a second Thersites both in humour and deformity.

We remained at Van Dieman's Land a fortnight; from whence, having sufficiently refreshed our people, and finished wooding and watering, we weighed anchor on Thursday, the 4th of September, and proceeded on our voyage with a pleasant breeze at N. W.

On the 19th, we made a cluster of small rocky islands to the N. E. about four or five leagues; but could discover no signs of our being in the vicinity of land. The wind nearly heading us, prevented our nearer approach to the islands, which we accordingly passed to the Southward. Captain Bligh christened them the Bounty isles, after the name of his ship. A few birds, such as penguins, gulls, &c. made their appearance whilst we continued in sight of these islands.

On the 9th of October, the first instance of mortality occurred among the crew, in the person of James Valentine, who died in the night of an asthmatic complaint, although one of the stoutest men on board; and from whose appearance I should least of all have expected to fall a martyr to that species of disorder.

Sunday the 25th, at day-break, we descried land, which proved to be the island of Maitea. It is very small, not measuring more than three miles in its greatest extent,
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but pretty populous. As we ran very near the shore, we saw several neat houses, or rather huts, most pleasantly situated, and surrounded with groves of coconut and other trees. A considerable number of the natives followed us along shore, making signs for us to land; but the surf was too boisterous to admit of our making the attempt. We stretched away therefore to the westward, and about sun-set descried Otaheite, at the distance of seven or eight leagues.

LETTER

LETTER II.

THUS far, my dear friend, I have given a succinct relation of our voyage to the island of Otaheite; in which I have been the more brief and concise, as, independent of our not meeting with any very extraordinary adventures in our course, I find, from your account, that a narrative of this expedition has been published by Captain Bligh himself; which of course must render a circumstantial and prolix detail on my part superfluous.— I shall therefore confine my remarks chiefly to the occurrences which took place during our abode in this delightful spot; and here I purpose to be the more copious and diffuse in my account, as the various motives which led to our subsequent revolt, and thereby occasioned the failure of the expedition, may in a great measure date their rise from the connections we formed, and the happy lives we led, among the friendly inhabitants of this terrestrial paradise, for such Otaheite justly deserves to be styled.

Before we had yet come to an anchor, we were boarded soon after day-break by a great number of the natives, who

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came out to meet us in canoes. They no sooner understood that we were from Great Britain, than they shewed us every possible mark of friendship and kindness; in doing which they displayed a greater degree of eagerness than we could have wished, as they crowded on board in such numbers, that we could hardly work the ship for them. At nine in the morning we cast anchor in Matavia Bay; and were soon joined by some of the chiefs, with presents, for which they received others in return. They were very particular in their enquiries after their former friends, mentioning among the rest Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander.

It appeared that they had lately heard, from the crew of some ship which they gave us to understand had touched at their island about four months ago of the death of Capt. Cook; though the particulars of the unhappy murder of this great man had been very prudently concealed from them; and Capt. Bligh gave strict orders, both to the officers and men, not to mention a word of this tragical catastrophe. They were not able to inform us either of the name of the ship, or to what nation she belonged.

The next morning early we worked farther into the Bay before our visitors made their appearance, and came to a safe mooring within a quarter of a mile of the shore, in seven fathoms water. Among the chiefs that now came on board to pay their respects to Captain Bligh, were Otow, the father of the supreme chief Otoo, Oreepyah, his brother, and Poeno, another chief of Matavai.

As our stay at Otaheite promised to be of some continuance, and the ladies in this happy island are known not
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to be the most reserved in granting their favours, orders had been very prudently given by Captain Bligh, previous to our coming to an anchor, for every person on board to pass scrutiny with the surgeon; which accordingly took place; and although the ceremony was attended with many ludicrous circumstances, it, however, yielded general satisfaction to the whole crew, to find, from the surgeon's report, that there were no symptoms of the venereal complaint among us, and consequently no danger of our contributing towards the propagation of that cruel disorder. The natives, indeed, seem to take little account of it, though the mode of cure which they pursue in these cases is not known to the Europeans.

A picture of Captain Cook, whose memory is held in high estimation by the Otaheiteans, was brought on board to be repaired. It had been drawn for the supreme chief Otoo, in 1777, by Mr. Webber; and, excepting some very trifling damage it had received in the back ground, only wanted to be new framed.

Tuesday the 28th, in consequence of a message from Otoo, requesting that a boat might be sent for his conveyance, I was commissioned by Captain Bligh to conduct him on board. He brought his wife with him, besides a numerous train of attendants, and seemed highly delighted at our arrival. An exchange of presents, as usual on such occasions, took place; and at the particular desire of this chief, whose name we found was now changed from Otoo to Tinali, we fired our great guns, by way of a salute, amidst the loud, reiterated shouts and acclamations of the natives.

Provisions were brought us in great plenty, particularly goats and hogs, of which latter we purchased a considerable quantity for salting. Nothing can exceed the friendly footing we were upon with these hospitable islanders, who readily supplied us with every thing we wanted; for which we gave them trinkets and gewgaws in return. Some little thefts, indeed, were committed; but these upon the whole occurred but seldom, and were very trifling.

Having obtained a promise from Tinah, that we should be furnished with abundance of bread-fruit trees, for a present to King George, I was sent by the Captain with a party to erect tents on shore, as well for ourselves, as for the receptacle and lodgment of the plants. Our party consisted of nine persons; and, to keep off the vast concourse of visitors, whose eager curiosity we had reason to apprehend might damage our plants, and otherwise injure our arrangements, it was agreed, with their own consent, that a boundary should be fixed upon, on which the natives were not to trespass.

The women at Otaheite are not only constitutionally votaries of Venus, but join to the charms of person such a happy cheerfulness of temper, and such engaging manners, that their allurements are perfectly irresistible. Their sensibility is exquisite; and though very unreserved in their amours, they by no means lose sight of delicacy. As such it was not to be expected, that they should pass unnoticed by us. In a very short time, every man on board was provided with his mistress; and, as I have promised in the commencement of my correspondence, not to disguise any part of my own conduct, I shall candidly acknowledge, that I had my favourite as well as
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the rest. Indeed, it is but justice to confess, that our subsequent conspiracy in a great measure owed its rise to these connexions. And to the same cause may be attributed, the desertion of the people during our stay at Otaheite. They were indeed recovered by Captain Bligh, and brought back to their duty: but they still retained a strong inclination to reside at Otaheite, which is certainly one of the finest islands in the whole world; and hence they readily joined the list of our conspiracy.

To prevent too great an increase of population, which the Otaheiteans consider in the light of a national calamity, they have a very extraordinary institution, called the Arreoy. The members of this society do not profess celibacy (a vow of that nature would indeed be totally impossible for an Otaheitean to observe), but they take an oath to destroy all their issue; which barbarous custom is actually most strictly adhered to. It must not, however, be inferred from this cruel institution of the Arreoy, that the Otaheiteans are devoid of natural affection; on the contrary, they are in general remarkable for their fondness and attachment to their offspring; and hence it seems more reasonable to attribute this sacrifice of their children to the effect of bigotry and superstition, than to any want of sensibility, or to constitutional barbarity. Whenever they are remonstrated with upon this unnatural practice, their constant excuse is, "We have too many children, and too many men already." They have no idea whatever of emigration; being perfectly satisfied with their own situation, without coveting that of the neighbouring islanders.

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We carried on a very pleasant joke with the Otaheiteans, which plainly shews, that our fair English ladies, should any of them think proper to take a trip to this island, would have as little reason to complain of the reception they would meet with from the men, as we had cause to be dissatisfied with the treatment we experienced from the women. The ship's barber, among other insignia of his profession, had brought with him a painted head, representing the face and breast of a fine lady, with an elegant tête of hair, rigged out in all the magnificence of fashion. This he dressed up in woman's clothes, a pole and a couple of sticks supplying the place of body and arms. All being in readiness for our design, the natives were informed that we had an English lady on board; whereupon the quarter-deck was cleared for Madam to be exhibited on. On her appearance, there was a general shout of admiration and applause, the deception being so complete, that they all took her to be alive, and desired to know whether she was the Captain's wife. Presents were likewise brought and laid at her feet; and the joke lasted a considerable time, before they became sensible of the cheat put upon them, at which they laughed heartily. The men, however, were very particular in their enquiries about the British ladies, and earnestly intreated the Captain, when he came to Otaheite again, to bring a whole ship's load of them with him. There is no doubt but they would meet with a very gracious and hospitable reception.

Among other curious instances of gallantry which came under our observation, the following, respecting Tinah and his wife, deserves to be particularly noticed. Tinah, who was our daily visitor, having taken his leave of us
sooner

sooner than usual, Oreepyah, his brother, entertained us with a curious piece of scandal; in which he gave us to understand, that Iddeah, the wife of Tinah, a woman of large stature and great bodily strength, kept a gallant in the capacity of a servant; and this favored menial, it appeared, was the very identical person who waited upon and fed Tinah at his meals, agreeably to the custom of the country. Oreepyah farther added, that this circumstance was not unknown to Tinah; whom he described to us as so indulgent a husband, that instead of taking offence at this *faux pas* of his wife, it was rather done with his consent and even at his own desire. This subject was again brought forward a few days after; and as we appeared to doubt the truth of the report, one of them even mentioned the matter to Iddeah herself in our hearing. The lady in question shewed no signs of resentment, but joined in the laugh, and seemed rather diverted with it. But, though inclination forms in general the only tie which love acknowledges here, the Otaheiteans are not totally divested of jealousy, of which we saw two or three instances during our abode among them. One of these had nearly terminated tragically; a man being stabbed in the belly with a case knife, in consequence of his being detected in too familiar a situation with a married woman. Fortunately, the wound did not prove mortal.

December the 18th, we buried our surgeon, whose death may chiefly be attributed to hard drinking and indolence, he being the greatest enemy to exercise I ever saw in my whole life. The natives, on being informed of this circumstance, dug a grave for him themselves, before our men had arrived at the place destined for his interment. The funeral was attended by several of the chiefs, who conducted

ducted themselves with great decorum whilst the service was read.

Our longer continuance in Matavai bay being deemed unsafe, as we were exposed to very high winds, we unmoored on the 25th, at sun-rise, and proceeded to Toahroah harbour, which is about three miles distant from the former place. Captain Bligh's original intention was to have gone to the Island Eimeo; but, on hinting this to our kind friends at Otaheite, they appeared so deeply concerned at the thoughts of losing us, that it induced the Captain to re-examine the depth between Matavai-bay and Toahroah harbour; which being found perfectly safe, the design of going to Eimeo was abandoned.

Toahroah harbour affords an excellent anchoring-place for ships, the surf not breaking so high here as in Matavai-bay. It likewise has a small river of exceeding good water, which falls into the sea nearly in the middle of the harbour. We had a plentiful supply of fish of various sorts, which the natives are very dexterous in catching, and of which they brought us great quantities every day.

It was at this place that we concerted the plan of our subsequent mutiny. We were treated with so much kindness and hospitality by the natives, and led such easy, happy lives in Otaheite, where not only the necessaries, but even the luxuries of life, are to be procured in abundance, without labour, trouble, or expence, that a great part of the ship's crew began to give Otaheite the preference over their native country. It was of no use to think of deserting; as the Captain had it always in his power,

power, with the assistance of the chiefs, to bring us back to our duty; of which we had a convincing proof in the case of the three men who deserted from Toahroah, as already related. For these reasons it was determined upon to seize the first opportunity of making ourselves masters of the ship, after she should have sailed to a convenient distance from Otaheite, which place we designed to revisit; and amuse the natives with some plausible story, to account for our sudden return, and the absence of the Captain and such of the ship's company as we might not think proper to take with us.

Although in the execution of this plan, it fell to my lot to act the principal part, it is but justice to observe, that the conspiracy did not primarily originate with myself. It was first conceived by one of those who had made the unsuccessful attempt to desert from the ship: though I mention this circumstance by no means with a view of exonerating myself; but merely that I may not, even in an unlawful action, appear to arrogate to myself a greater share of merit than is legitimately my due.

At the same time it is but justice that I should acquit Captain Bligh, in the most unequivocal manner, of having contributed, in the smallest degree, to the promotion of our conspiracy, by any harsh or ungentleman like conduct on his part. So far from it, that few officers in the service, I am persuaded, can in this respect be found superior to him, or produce stronger claims upon the gratitude and attachment of the men whom they are appointed to command. Quintal, indeed, I have reason to believe, never forgot the lashes he received by Captain Bligh's orders, in consequence of a complaint preferred

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against him by the master ; and which I have frequently heard several of his comrades declare was altogether frivolous. For the rest, our mutiny is wholly to be ascribed to the strong predilection we had contracted for living in Otaheite ; where, exclusive of the happy disposition of the inhabitants, the mildness of the climate, and the fertility of the soil, we had formed certain tender connexions, which banished the remembrance of Old England entirely from our breasts.

We took our leave of Otaheite the beginning of April, after an agreeable stay of six months ; and the following morning made the island Huaheine ; where we purchased some hogs and fruit of the natives. As the Captain had no design of staying in this place, we did not come to an anchor ; but continued under sail all night, steering westward for the Friendly Islands.

The 9th, we saw a water-spout, which advanced in a strait line towards the ship, and compelled us to bear up ; which we had hardly done, when the phænomenon passed with incredible velocity, at the distance of little more than eight or nine yards astern of us, but without doing us any kind of damage.

The 11th, at break of day, we descried land, bearing S. S. W. which proved to be an island hitherto undiscovered by our navigators. Some men, who came along side in a Canoe, informed the Captain that it was called Wytootacku, and described it as abounding in cocoa nuts, bread-fruit trees, and plantains. These Islanders were tatowed like the Otaheiteans, and spake nearly the same language.

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We continued our course to the westward till the 23d, when we came to an anchor in the road of Annamooka, belonging to the Friendly Islands. Here we replaced some of our bread-fruit trees, which appeared to be sickly and injured, and trafficked with the natives for yams, plantains, &c. We staid at this place till the 26th; when, having completed our wooding and watering, and the natives committing various depredations upon us, for which we could obtain no redress, the Captain gave orders to get under weigh. The following day we made the island Kotoo; which we coasted all the afternoon, in hopes of having some communication with the natives; but, being disappointed in our expectations, and a northerly wind springing up, we stood to the westward till the next morning.

Every thing being now ripe for our projected revolt, we proceeded to carry our design into execution. I had been engaged to sup with Captain Bligh the preceding evening; but excused myself on pretence of illness, as I wished to concert some preparatory measures with the rest of my confederates. It was hardly day-light when we rushed into the Captain's cabin; whom we immediately secured before he was well awake, by pinioning his arms. Hereupon we hauled him upon deck, and placed him abait the mizen mast under guard.

Meanwhile proper steps had been taken to secure the officers, and such of the ship's company, as we deemed inimical to our design. These, together with the Captain, I ordered into the boat, which had been hoisted out for that purpose; permitting them to take a small quantity of stores, provisions, cordage, and other necessaries with them.

During the whole of this transaction Captain Bligh exerted himself to the utmost, to reduce the people to a sense of their duty, by haranguing and expostulating with them; which caused me to assume a degree of ferocity quite repugnant to my feelings, as I dreaded the effect which his remonstrances might produce. Hence I several times threatened him with instant death, unless he desisted: but my menaces were all in vain; he continued to harangue us with such manly eloquence, that I was fain to call in the dram bottle to my aid, which I directed to be served round to my associates. Thus heartened and encouraged we went through the business; though for my own part I must acknowledge, that I suffered more than words can express, from the conflict of contending passions. But I had gone too far to recede; so putting the best face on the business, I ordered the boat to be cut adrift, wore ship, and shaped our course back for Otaheite.

LETTER

LETTER III.

YOU are henceforth to consider me in the light of a leader, and of consequence must expect to see me make my appearance in the *First Person*, a little oftener than I have hitherto been wont to do. I shall not weary your patience with needless repetitions of my regret for having acted the part I did; neither shall I attempt to palliate my guilt. I was tempted, and I fell; and most probably, were I again placed in similar circumstances, with temptations equally strong, and equal opportunities of transgressing with impunity;—most probable it is, that in spite of all the remorse I have since experienced in consequence of my crime, I should, notwithstanding, be induced to repeat my offence. And this, perhaps, I might venture to add, would be the case of a great many more persons in the world besides myself.

Leaving, therefore, for the present at least, all remarks and observations upon the past, I shall, without farther preface, resume the thread of my narrative.

Our return to Otaheite, as I foresaw, greatly surprised the natives, who flocked around us in vast numbers as before. They were greatly disappointed, both in missing the Captain, and in finding us so much reduced in number; however, we succeeded tolerably well in the tale we had invented for this purpose; and easily brought them to believe, that Captain Bligh, and the rest of the company, had

had remained at Whytatooke with Captain Cooke, who had taken up his residence, and had become king of that island ; but that we could not forget their kindness, and chose rather to reside with them than with any of their neighbours, or even to return to our own country. This appearance of our partiality flattered them extremely ; and they testified their acknowledgments, by giving us the heartiest welcome, and swearing eternal Tyoship, a term signifying the strongest and indissoluble friendship.

Our long residence in this charming spot afforded me opportunities of informing myself more minutely of its various productions, with the manners, customs, and occupation of its inhabitants.

Otaheite is assuredly situated in the most delightful and happy climate in the universe ; it is neither liable to the excesses of heat or cold, to rains or drought ; a serene and temperate sky preserves its happy inhabitants in health and vigour, and almost exempts them from every disorder incident to the inhabitants of less happy climates. The eye feasts with delight on the charming prospect which presents itself from the shore ; an agreeable variety of hill and dale, of woods and mountains, decked in nature's favorite suit, perpetual green, delights the imagination ; numerous rivulets meander through the plantations ; which, with the houses fancifully scattered here and there in beautiful groves, complete a lovely and enchanting picture.

The fertility and richness of its soil is exemplified in the numerous fruits which spring spontaneously in every quarter. In describing which I shall begin with the bread-fruit,
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the primary cause of the expedition. This fruit is the produce of a lofty tree, spreading circularly near the top, forming a pleasant verdant parasol ; the leaves are of the deepest green, their edges beautifully scolloped, and are from sixteen to eighteen inches long. The branches are loaded on all parts with this inestimable gift of providence. It is covered with a thick, rough rind, is of an oval form, seven or eight inches long. It grows singly, as an apple : when it has attained its full growth is the fittest time to gather for use, and they are exceedingly nutritive ; but, if they remain on the tree till they ripen into a bright yellow, they grow soft, and lose their proper taste, which something resembles that of a Jerusalem artichoke ; and its texture soft and spongy, like the crumb of new bread ; and imbibing a luscious flavour, not unlike an over-ripe peach, becomes very unwholesome, producing the dysentery, and disorders in the bowels.

Of the bananas and plantains there are many different species ; the nature of which are so generally known, that I shall forbear to say any thing of them, as well as of the cocoa, sweet potatoe, and yams, all which they have in the greatest profusion ; a fruit, called by them jambu, which is very delicious : they have also a root of the saffraas kind, which they call pea ; a fruit not unlike a bean, called ahee ; which, when roasted, may very well be mistaken for a chesnut, in taste and smell ; the wharra, a tree which produces a fine fruit, little inferior to the pine ; they have also a plant called eve, of which the roots alone are eaten ; besides numberless smaller roots and vegetables, which serve these happy islanders for food ; as well as a great variety of trees, shrubs, &c. adapted to various uses, such as building houses, vessels, tools,

tools, utensils, manufactures, and dyes of almost every colour. Captain Cooke had left on one of the neighbouring islands a horse, a mare, a cow with calf, and a bull; also some sheep; all which have since thrive very well: except a small blunder they made with respect to the horse, which, through mistake, they butchered instead of one of the cows: but, as the mare was with foal, they have not lost the breed, but have a good many horses dispersed in the different islands. As they did not relish horse-flesh, they were not in a hurry to try the experiment with any of the horned cattle; by which fortunate circumstance they have greatly encreased. Had they relished the first sample, there would soon have been none left.

The inhabitants come next under my observation. They are equal in stature to the tallest Europeans; and, as being above the common standard is a sign of nobility, the chiefs take great care to preserve this mark of family distinction; and frequently single out from the plebeian circles a handsome well-formed female, to prevent degeneracy, when the stature of his family appears declining: but, on no other account do they mix with the lower orders, but are scrupulous to a degree; and instances of an indiscriminate cohabitation between the classes are extremely rare; for they are equal in ancestral pride to a German Baron, or a Castilian Hidalgo. And yet, what is very extraordinary, they have no method of transmitting their pedigree but by tradition, nor any fixed rule of perpetuating their family, but what nature has implanted in the breast of the mother: having no schools, education is not to be acquired; they are therefore entirely governed by example; the conduct of the father is pursued by the son, the daughter following that of her mother. Labour, in this section of the globe, is not imposed

posed nor exercised by the imperious calls of necessity, but merely for amusement : it is prescribed to none ; yet none are indolent ;—chance appears to have allotted to each his separate station. No murmuring is heard at the dispensations of providence ; and indeed it would be the highest ingratitude, for they are amply blessed with its choicest and most desirable gifts.

In the marriages of the superior classes, great wisdom is prominently conspicuous ; they never suffer the consummation of the nuptial rites, till both parties have attained a full maturity. With the meaner tribes the reverse is the case ; hence the common people are much beneath the stature of the nobility.

The operation of tatooing appears to have some tincture of religion in it, as the priests perform the office ; and, by their persuasion and eloquence, the poor children are encouraged to endure the pain, than which nothing can be more acute. A thousand punctures, with the blood trickling from each pore, one would imagine was beyond the philosophy of a child to support ; yet they suffer with more than stoic firmness.

Their hair is generally black, and the men wear it in long flowing tresses, which gives them not an ungraceful appearance ; the women cut it short round their heads. Both sexes, like the Indians in America, carefully eradicate it from every other part of their bodies ; they are extremely delicate in keeping themselves perfectly clean ; never suffering the sun to set without immersing themselves in the sea. Notwithstanding this, they sometimes have rather a rancid smell, owing to their lubricating

themselves with oil ; but this, custom reconciles, and it soon ceases to be disagreeable.

Some superstitious notions are discoverable in their meals : the women are not suffered to mix with the men. But this does not appear to indicate any inferiority of the sex, but which custom has erected into a law : nor do they take their meals in company, but upon certain festivals. Queen Oberea, some years since, by the account of former navigators, entertained a company of not less than one thousand : the viands were all brought by the servants who prepared them ; the meat was placed into the shells of cocoa nuts, and was distributed to the guests by herself. They were seated in rows round her palace ; after having served them all, she at length took her seat on a kind of throne, somewhat elevated above the rest ; and two favourite female domestics, placing themselves on her right and left, fed her like a child.

They have but two ways of cooking their animal food, which is broiling and baking ; the first of which is done over heated stones, in the following simple manner ; —the meat is placed on clean stones ; and, when done enough on one side, they turn it on the other, till the gravy begins to run : but their mode of baking is rather singular ; they dig a hole in the earth proportioned to the thing they have to dress ; they then place a layer of wood at the bottom ; over which a course of stones ; and so alternately till the cavity is filled up ; —they then kindle a fire, and the stones are made hot ; —then taking out the embers, and placing the stones that are least heated close to each other at the bottom of the hole, and covering them with fresh leaves, lay on them the meat they have to dress,

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cleaned and seasoned to their palate :—after placing a fresh layer of green leaves, they fill up the hole with the remainder of the hot stones, and close the hole up with the mould dug out of it. They leave their cooking three or four hours ; and when taken out, it is as savoury as any thing I ever tasted. The generality of the provisions of the chiefs and people of rank is dressed in this manner. They have no tables or chairs ; and people of the first quality take their meals on the ground, under the shade of a spreading tree. Leaves of the bread-fruit tree serve them for napkins ; and a basket, set by them, contains their dinner. Two cocoa or calabash shells, the one for fresh, the other for salt water, furnish the whole of their table requisites. When dinner is brought, and the leaves placed in order, they begin by washing their hands and mouth : that done, they proceed to the examination of their basket. Whatever it contains is neatly wrapped up in leaves. If fish, they break it into the salt water ; and dexterously, between their finger and thumb, convey it into their mouth ; with just as much of the salt water as adheres thereto—as we would use anchovy and butter. If meat, they sever it with a wooden knife, and dip it in the salt water, as they do the fish. Bread-fruit supplies the place of bread. After their meal, they again wash themselves, and attack the vegetables ; consisting of bananas, plantains, cocoa-nuts, guavas, &c. they then wash a third time, and generally compose themselves to sleep for a few hours.

The Otaheitean ladies are extremely fond of dress ; their head-dress is chiefly composed of human hair, wove so delicately, that it rivals the web of the ingenious spider. This they wind round their heads, as a kind of
garland,

garland, ornamented with flowers stuck in the plaits, which have a very agreeable effect. Their ears are loaded with European beads, whose introduction supplanted every former ornament ; which consisted of any red or shining thing they met with. The other part of their dress is very simple—a piece of cloth, a yard and half wide, and three or four in length, with a hole cut in the middle, big enough to admit the head, flows round them below the waist : thence a piece of the same cloth is girt round them, and the ends tied in bows like the cravat of a fop, which hang down before them as low as the knees. There is little difference of dress between the sexes ; none of them wear any covering to the feet or legs, which is the more surprising as the sun is extremely scorching at some particular seasons. The cloth they manufacture is of various textures ; that for dry weather is no better than common paper made from the rind of trees. In rainy weather they wear a more substantial covering, which is a kind of matting very curiously platted. The only distinction of dress from the prince to the peasant, consists in the quantity and colour ; but the shape is the same. A single garment suffices the lower orders, whilst the superior classes wear a most burthensome quantity. A most singular mode of salutation prevails among them : when friends meet, they strip off their tunicks with astonishing agility, and remain naked from the waist upwards ; this is as customary with them, as pulling off the hat or shaking hands is with Europeans. Both sexes comply with this fashion ; and it is universally practised throughout the island.

The arts are chiefly confined to the chiefs ; and consist of architecture, carving, painting, ship-building, and navigation. The principal specimen of their architectural

ral genius is the Morai, or Mausoleum of Oberea ; and which indeed may be placed in competition with the famous Egyptian pyramids. It is constructed of stone, near a hundred yards in length, thirty in breadth, and rises near twenty in height, by a flight of steps ; it narrows gradually to the top, whereon is the figure of a bird carved in wood. The time of the erection of this pyramid cannot be ascertained ; for, as before observed, they possess no record of past transactions. It is built of coral stones, of large dimensions, squared and polished ; and the joinings so neatly managed, that they are scarce discernible. It is inconceivable how such a mass of materials could be collected in an island destitute of quarries ; how formed with that exactness, and without any kind of cement, as to be impenetrable by rain, with implements softer than the materials to which they were applied : in short, how these enormous masses of stone could be elevated to such an height, must puzzle and astonish the beholder.

They have scarce a weapon, tool, or ordinary utensil, but what exhibits their genius for carving. Their vessels are all adorned ; and in the generality of their performances there is a cleverness discernible, that, with the same tools, few European carvers could excel.

In ship-building they have not arrived at that proficiency ; but their vessels are calculated well enough for those seas. Instances of their being lost very rarely occur : they are built with a deep sweep ; and the extreme ends a good deal elevated ; which serves to shelter the rowers from the violence of the surf, which breaks on the shores of these islands with great fury. Their form is not unlike

a punt, being flat-bottomed; of about three feet wide, which is no way proportionate to their length, which frequently exceeds 60 feet. These vessels could not live in any thing of a sea without some contrivance; they therefore place two of the same size along side each other, at four or five feet distance; then laying strong spars athwart, they lash them fast together; and, to a mast erected in each, they bend a square sail: the yards are fixed above and below to the masts in either vessel. A kind of cabin is built on the platform between the two, which contains their provisions. They are excellent astronomers; and with wonderful precision will describe the motion of the heavenly bodies; and will tell by the aspect of the heavens the changes of the wind and weather, some days before they happen. This knowledge enables them to visit the islands round them. In the day time, they shape their course by the sun; and in the night the stars are their pilots. Their skill in the appearance of the celestial sphere, gives them that confidence, that they frequently perform voyages to the different islands, sixty or eighty leagues-round. Their trips seem merely made for discovery, or to increase their acquaintance with other islanders, as they possess no medium wherewith to barter.

Painting is the art least understood amongst them; it chiefly consists of the figures which are traced on their bodies, and the ornaments on their vessels: those on their bodies are commonly birds and fishes; sometimes after nature, but often monsters of the artist's creation: the outline is remarkably correct. The priests engross the scientific operation of tatooing, which is considered as necessary as baptism to a Christian; for, without which they would be counted as the outcasts of society. The
age

age at which this rite is performed, is from twelve to fourteen: before that period children would not be able to undergo the pain of the operation. The other kind of painting may be rather called daubing; and consists only in colouring the rude carvings in their boats; sometimes with one colour and sometimes another; but most commonly with red, which is their favourite.

Cloth is their principal manufacture; the material with which it is made is neither spun nor wove. The bark is stript from the trees, and immersed in water to soak; the outer rind is then scraped off. When properly cleaned, it is placed upon leaves in thin layers; extending to the length and breadth the workman chuses; to strengthen and increase its substance, one layer is placed over another till it attains the desired thickness. It is then left to drain; and, when it will bear lifting, is laid on a platform of smooth boards, and beat with a square piece of wood, about a foot and a half long, and three inches broad; on each side of which are parallel lines, drawn lengthwise. These lines differ in fineness, in proportion from a small twine, to a silk thread. They begin to beat with the coarsest, and finish with the finest side of the beater. Two men are generally employed in the exercise of beating the cloth; who stand opposite each other, and regulate their strokes as smiths on an anvil. This operation thins and consolidates the layers of bark; this process finished, it is spread out to whiten; and, when sufficiently bleached, it is turned over to the women, who certainly exhibit great proofs of genius and good taste. They very readily imitate every pattern brought them from Europe; and in general they are far from bad copyists. It is then coloured, commonly red or yellow.

yellow. Their dyes are tolerably good ; but the materials and texture of the cloth will not admit of washing, and of course become disagreeable to those who cannot frequently afford a new suit. When dry, it is rolled up and laid by for use. The bark of three different trees are used in this fabric ; the paper-mulberry, the bread-fruit tree, and the wild fig. The finest sorts are produced from the two first ; but the most durable is made from the last, which resists the rain—a property which the others do not possess.

Matting is another of their manufactures, made also from the rind of trees and shrubs. They are wove so fine, that they may challenge Europe to produce more excellent workmanship. Of this they fabricate their sails, counterpanes for their beds, and cloathing in rainy weather.

Cordage is a very considerable article, and in which they excel. It is made from a plant of the nettle kind. Their fishing lines are superior to any thing of the kind in Europe, being infinitely stronger and more durable. Their nets have the same advantage, being made with the same materials. But the cords of human hair, which the ladies use for bandeaus round their heads, and which is a principal and fashionable amusement,—it is inconceivably fine. I have seen a specimen of it more than a thousand yards in length, as fine as the finest silk thread, and without a knot. This they perform without the assistance of any instrument, and with a celerity beyond the limits of credibility.

Wicker

Wicker work is a general employment, and in which they are all proficient. As they are emulous of superiority, their performances in this species of ingenuity are incomparably neat.

Other articles of less account, as their arms, offensive and defensive, which seem to be the workmanship of their respective owners, as well as their fishing tackle, working utensils, &c. display no very great efforts of ingenuity.

They have various amusements, as musick, dancing, wrestling, shooting with the bow, throwing their lances, slinging, rowing, and swimming; in all of which they far excelled any of us Europeans.

Their musick is unharmonious, being only a kind of fife and drum; yet, with these they ramble through the country, frequenting festivals in companies, as formerly Morris dancers used to do in England.

Their Heivas resemble the country wakes in England. The young folks meet together to dance and make merry, and here the minstrels constantly attend. The girls in these assemblies are not overburthened with modesty; but in their dances endeavour to inflame the passions of their partners by gestures the most lascivious; and, when the dance is finished, scruple not to gratify those propensities which their wanton agility has excited, without a blush, or the least particle of shame. These heivas are indiscriminately frequented by all ranks. There is also another meeting, at which none but the principal people are admitted. These form a distinct society, in which every woman is common to every man; and in these

assemblies the sports they practice are wantonly voluptuous, beyond imagination.

Their vocal musick is by no means contemptible ; but all the melody consists in the voice, as they have no rules to regulate their tones ; and their songs are generally words of their own composing, which they vary into long and short verses, merry or sad, suitable to the occasion ; and, as the language itself is melodious, one is no less delighted with the arrantest nonsense, than with the sublimest composition.

Their theatrical diversions consist of musick, dancing, and drollery. Their instrumental musick, as before observed, is very paltry : but their farce is very laughable, and something similar to the buffoonery of Bartholemew fair. I think they would not make bad performers of serious or tragic pieces, were there any compositions of that kind ; for they have tears at will, and counterfeit sorrow to admiration : indeed, it is had recourse to on the most indifferent occasions, and weeping is equally practised by the men as well as the women.

It is no easy matter to define their religion. It is like most others, subservient to political purposes. The person of Majesty is held sacred and inviolable ; and the royal offspring, like Jupiter Ammon, declared to be sprung from the immortal gods ! Till the heir apparent arrives at age, he is under the controul and tuition of the high priest. They worship the deity by faith alone, and are strangers to idolatry. The mysteries of religion are monopolized by the king, princes, priests, and great chiefs : the rest of the community serve to complete the pageantry

pageantry of a religious show. They offer human sacrifices; and on great festivals each district furnishes a male victim, who is selected from the dregs of the people, and the most worthless they can find. When the object is fixed upon, he is kept totally ignorant of his fate, till the emissaries of the high priest arrive, when they put him to death without the least ceremony, and convey the body to the place of sacrifice; where there is an altar of stone, ornamented with a number of human skulls, which belonged to those who had been formerly sacrificed.

As soon as an Otaheitean departs this life, his relations crowd to his house, and bewail his loss with clamorous lamentations and expressions of grief. The nearest of kin to the deceased sits like a statue beside the corpse, without sense or motion; whilst the others are one moment venting their grief in the most passionate exclamations, and the next laughing and talking of indifferent matters, without the least appearance of concern. On the next morning the body is put in a shroud, and taken to the sea-side upon a bier, supported by six bearers on their shoulders, attended by the priest; who, having prayed over the body, repeats his prayer in short sentences during the procession. When they arrive at the water's edge, the corpse is set down on the beach: the priest renews his prayers; and, taking up some of the water in his hand, sprinkles it towards the body, but not upon it. It is then carried back forty or fifty yards, and soon after brought again to the water's edge, where the prayers and sprinklings are renewed. This is repeated several times. During this ceremony they build a house, and a piece of ground is railed round it. In the centre a stage is erected, whereon the bier is placed, and the body left to putrify, till the flesh is wasted from

the bones. When the body is deposited, the mourning is renewed. The women assemble, and are led to the door by the nearest relation, who strikes a shark's tooth into the crown of her head: the blood copiously follows the stroke; and is carefully received upon pieces of linen, which are thrown under the bier. The rest of the women follow her example, and the ceremony is repeated at the interval of two or three days, as long as the zeal and sorrow of the parties hold out. The tears shed upon these occasions are also received upon pieces of cloth, and offered as oblations to the dead. Some of the younger people cut off their hair, which they throw under the bier with the other offerings.

As they have no endemical disorder among them, their employments all tending to promote exercise, consequently are conducive to health. Ere they were acquainted with the Europeans, a person to languish of an incurable disease would have been a phenomenon they were entirely strangers to. There are no such professions among them as physicians or surgeons: yet they are not deficient in the art of healing wounds of the most dangerous nature, to which I have been frequently a witness; and which is an incontestible proof that they are acquainted with the virtues of the balsams extracted from the shrubs and trees with which they abound.

The first fruits of European civilization, were disorders of the most shameful and afflictive kind; and in return for their hospitality, they have received a subtle enemy, which has sapped the constitutions of the greater part of those innocent and inoffensive islanders. This disorder has made great ravages; and even when cured has been followed

followed by a decline, which they term the British disease ; in this state the unhappy sufferer is shut out from society, on a supposition of the disorder being infectious ; and thus, unassisted and abandoned, suffered to perish. This was the fate of Omai, the native brought to England by Captain Cooke. On his return home, being a man of gallantry, by his European acquirements, and the entertaining relation of his adventures, he ingratiated himself into the good graces of almost every fine woman on the island, and at length fell a victim to this cruel disorder, two years after his return.

Their hostile expeditions are far from contemptible, as they frequently muster from eight hundred to a thousand canoes ; in which their lances are placed in sockets, and stand upright ; they are of various lengths, and mostly headed with the bone of the sting ray : the wounds they inflict generally prove mortal. Great heaps of large stones are heaped on the stages, like shot piled in ordnance stores, and they really form a very warlike appearance. Their wars are carried on in a most destructive mode ; as the successful party gives no quarter, but massacres man, woman, and child ; not only depopulating whole districts, but destroying all the bread-fruit trees, by severing the bark round the tree, which presently occasions its death : thus the whole country is laid waste for four or five years. This is a great drawback to the happiness of the Otaheiteans, as they are obliged to be perpetually on the watch, to prevent a surprize from their warlike neighbours.

In their engagements they hoist an English pendant, the gift of Captain Cooke ; which really inspires them
with

with a courage of which they were formerly destitute; and they have enthusiastically pursued the idea, of its possessing the virtue of intimidation to their enemies, and assuring them victory as long as they retain the possession. This has increased their ardour and infused a spirit of enterprise; so that their neighbours, who formerly were more warlike and courageous, are not so frequently disposed to disturb their tranquility.

Their treaties of peace are concluded in a very singular manner. The conquerors, in order to conciliate the affections of the vanquished, send them a number of their most beautiful young girls, whose blandishments are commonly more prevailing, and cement the alliances more durably, than the political finesse of European negotiators. A whimsical circumstance is said to have happened to the Otaheiteans, in one of their wars: it was their mishap to be overcome by the Bolabolans, inhabiting the north-westernmost of the Society Islands, and the most warlike of their neighbours. Their women are extremely beautiful—indeed they do not possess that languishing softness of the Otaheitean ladies; but their fine animated countenances and vivacity of disposition, render them more desirable companions. The qualifications of these ladies were too masculine for the indolent Otaheiteans, who would not relinquish the amorous dalliance of their own beautiful women, for a familiar intercourse with the fair strangers; who, women like, fired at this unpardonable neglect of their charms, returned, boiling with indignation and resentment; and, at their instigation, the horrors of war were renewed with accumulated fury.

The disposition of the Otaheiteans is affable, good-natured, and obliging in the extreme ; their fidelity is inviolable, when entrusted with confidence ; and there is no kind of service but they will cheerfully perform for those they select as their friend, which they call Tyo : they will ramble from one end of the island to the other for his gratification ; and, when their affections are once conciliated, no consideration can prevail on them to cancel their attachment. But this does not extend to affairs of gallantry ; for here the lines of the celebrated Mr. Pope very happily apply, that—

“ Men, some to business, some to pleasure take,

“ But every woman is at heart a rake.”

Custom initiates virgins to the practice of sensual pleasures ; and they lose their pretensions to that state, before the operation of reason has any controul over the passions. When once they have passed their noviciate, they are far from being niggardly of their favours ; but are more ambitious of affording pleasure to numbers, than being constant to a single object. Till they become mothers, this indiscriminate prostitution is held in no disgrace : but, the moment they find themselves pregnant, nature asserts her controul, and inclines the mother to seek protection for her infant : she attaches herself to the father ; and he, on his part, experiences a pleasure in protecting and providing for his offspring. Thus it is that there are few instances of adultery ; for, where there is no restriction from illicit commerce, there is no allurements to the gratification of lustful passions, with those who are already palled with their enjoyment. The complexion of these charming girls is not so fair as their neighbours
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the Ulietians; but of a clear olive, or brunette; which I prefer to the finest white and red, as it is less liable to change; their eyes are full of fire, admirably expressive, and melting with languishing softness; their teeth are perfectly regular, and of the whiteness of the purest ivory.

I am apt to think that the stigma fixed on the natives of the Society Islands, of their being so habituated to thieving, is not altogether just; and that the censure so lavishly bestowed on them for this vice, upon investigation, is in a great measure unmerited.

Suppose a number of adventurers were to land upon the coasts of any civilized country, and, without ceremony, begin to break down their fences, gather their fruits, seize their cattle, and, in short, take whatever they chose. In this situation, not having sufficient force to oppose their ravages, would it be criminal to distress them by every means, and in any way chance might present? Surely no: and, if censure attaches to either party, it is to those who set the example. And, by all the observation I could make, this propensity rarely prompts them to rob each other. For the honour of Christianity and civilization, I should be proud to say as much for my own country.

The behaviour of the natives, for some days after our return, was extremely troublesome, continually interrogating us respecting the fate of the captain and the remainder of the ship's company: and, whether from comparing the different accounts which they received, (for, notwithstanding every precaution, it was an utter impossibility

libility for every one to repeat a fiction circumstantially alike) or, that they had got possession of our secret by means of the women, who might have coaxed it from their lover in the moment of dalliance; I began to think ourselves very insecure; and, as suspicion always haunts the guilty mind, their conduct appeared very equivocal, and I was under great apprehensions of their surprising the ship. These ideas were not alone confined to me; for it appeared a general observation; and the determination was to keep as strict a look out as before.

We soon found our suspicions were groundless, and that they thought of nothing less than offending us; so that in a little time all our fears vanished, and it frequently happened that the ship was left to the care of only three or four people; while the rest were amusing themselves at the heivas, and indulging in all the enjoyments of this terrestrial paradise.

L E T T E R I V.

FROM the moment I had succeeded in surprising the ship, far more extensive projects entered my mind, than that of spinning out an indolent existence in Otaheite ; but which I carefully kept from the knowledge of any of my comrades, as many of them had intermarried into the families of the chiefs, till I perceived the pleasures of the shore, and the careffes of the ladies, began to slacken from their wonted attractions, and satiety made its appearance among them. By degrees I intimated the probability of Captain Bligh's reaching the settlement at Botany Bay ; and, if there were any ships of force there, that Governor Philip would immediately send in search of us : or, that as soon as the news of our revolt should be known at home, there could be no doubt but a frigate would be dispatched to apprehend us. I soon perceived, these surmises began to work, and from day to day get stronger in their minds ; so that in a short time I was solicited by the major part of them to project some plan for our future safety ; saying that they would implicitly follow my directions, and earnestly begging me to resume the command

mand of the ship, and whatever course I chose to steer they would cheerfully agree to.

I told them that I was entirely devoted to their service; that all my little ability should be exerted, not only to secure them from the impending danger of being taken and carried to England; but, I did not in the least doubt, I should be able to strike out a plan, which would infallibly elude all pursuit, and again restore them to the blessings of Christian society. But, as there were many averse to leaving the island, it would be improper to make known the particulars; lest, in the event of those left behind falling into the hands of any English cruizers, there would be a clue, which perhaps might eventually lead to the destruction of us all. They reiterated their determination to share my fortunes; and, with great earnestness, solemnly promised the same obedience and subordination, as though I were the regular Captain, commissioned by the Admiralty of Great Britain.

This was the temper of mind I had been secretly wishing to excite; but there being one or two of the officers, who, when I distantly founded them on the subject, were so averse to quitting their amorous connections, that I was rather apprehensive their example would be followed by so many of the people, that I should not get enough to work the ship; which, in all probability, would have been the case, had I been over forward, or assumed that superiority they voluntarily conferred on me.

A few days after this, I had an opportunity of collecting the sentiments of the whole company; when I found that more than one half were determined to remain at

Otaheite ; but they had no objection for those who chose to go to take the ship, having no kind of inclination to shift their quarters. I was a little piqued at finding myself in the minority : however, as soon as I could depend on my men, although too few to navigate a ship the distance I meant to go, I set about preparing for the voyage.

On overhauling the rigging, we found it very little damaged ; and, in about a week, with half a dozen of our ship-mates, who, though they chose to stay behind, nevertheless lent us their assistance, we got every thing a tanto ; and as much provision, water, live stock, vegetables, and fruit, as we could conveniently stow ; and once more took up our residence on board the *Bounty*.

My ship's company now consisted only of ten men, myself included ; with each his mistress, and four young girls, sisters to some of them, who could not be persuaded to stay behind. So many women in a ship was a very unfavourable circumstance ; but I had no alternative, either to take them with us, or remain where we were ; and, as I was determined to quit the island at all events, I believe I should have been tempted to have taken their whole stock of females, rather than my intentions should have been frustrated.

On quitting Otaheita we took a friendly farewell of our shipmates ; from whom I parted with much regret, as I feared their present tranquillity would be of short duration ; for there was no reliance to be placed on the support of the natives, whose whole force would be greatly inadequate to defend them ; as one frigate would be more than sufficient to subjugate the whole island ; so that,
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should a ship be sent in search of us, there would be no possibility of their escaping. I told them I should steer to the northward, in hopes of meeting with some island, which had hitherto eluded the discovery of European navigators.

A very moving scene ensued between the ladies, their relatives, and friends; they bewailed each other, as though they had actually departed this life; they stripped themselves to the waist, and wounded themselves with shells on the head, that the blood streamed down their shoulders. We pacified them with promises of a speedy return; and, as sorrow gains but a very superficial lodgment in the breast of these islanders, every idea of that sensation was totally eradicated in a few days.

With a pleasant breeze we run the island out of sight before sun-set; passing Emeo, which is governed by a relation of Otoo. The next day, at noon, we were abreast of Huaheine; but, as I did not wish to delay any time in getting out of the neighbourhood of Otaheite, I was determined to touch at none of the Society Islands. We continued our course to the northward; but stood near enough the shore of the different islands for the natives to see us, that, in case of enquiry, our pursuers might be led on a wrong scent. The shores were thronged, and several canoes put off; but, having a stiff breeze, their endeavours to board us were ineffectual. We continued standing on, passing to the westward of Bolabola, and made the island of Maruah. Our purpose being thus far answered, in giving the islanders an idea that we had proceeded to the northward, to the Sandwich Islands, we altered our course to the South West; when,

when, making Palmerston's islands, we discovered a canoe, eight or nine leagues from the land : as we approached it, we could perceive them making signals to us, as if standing in need of assistance. We accordingly bore up, and, in less than an hour, brought them along-side. We found four men and a boy in her, almost worn out with fatigue and hunger. The mixed emotions of doubt, joy, and apprehension, were strongly portrayed in their countenances, as we hoisted them up the side, they being too far spent to get on board without help ; but, when on the quarter-deck they saw several of their neighbours, whose language they understood, and from whom they were immediately supplied with something to satisfy the imperious calls of hunger, their transports were without bounds, nor were their acknowledgments less fervent. Their bosoms heaved with the hope of being returned to their kindred and friends, and the tear of gratitude gave fresh lustre to their languid vision, and silently bedewed their famished cheeks.

They gave us to understand that they were natives of Terea, an island to the southward of Palmerston Islands ; that four days before they had put off to visit a small island within sight ; but it coming to blow very hard, they were not able to reach it before night set in ; the gale increasing, rendered their paddles of little use ; and, before morning, they had lost sight of both islands ; and had been thus driven about, without seeing any other land, till a little before they fell in with us ; when they had perceived the islands before them ; but it blowing off the land, they despaired of reaching it ; and, at the moment they discovered us, were on the point of sinking under the accumulated misery of hunger and fatigue.

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We had made sail, and were standing on at the rate of about seven knots, when, on a sudden, we felt a most severe shock, which caused an instant alarm throughout the ship, as we were apprehensive we had struck on some hidden reef; but the ship not losing her way, our apprehensions subsided. I went below, and found the water pouring into her very fast forwards; and, upon a nearer investigation, that we had struck the point of a rock through the starboard bow, about two streaks below the water line: a fragment of the rock was tore away, and remained in the timbers; which fortunate circumstance, in all probability, saved us from instant destruction.

We immediately hauled in for the land, and in about two hours came to an anchor; when all hands set about repairing the damage; getting all the weight we could over to larboard, we heeled her two streaks, which brought the leak above the water; when, to our amazement, we found a piece of the rock more than four feet in length, and three feet six inches in breadth, so fast jammed in the side, that all our strength could scarce heave it out with the fore tackle: it weighed near half a ton.

We secured the leak for the night, lest it should come to blow, and the next morning completed it. Several of the natives came off to us; but, as we meant to get under weigh as soon as possible, it being very foul anchorage, and an ugly reef on either side us, rendered our station very unsafe. During the night we found the spare yards, &c. which we had lowered out of the chains when we heeled ship, had got adrift, and floated on shore. This was a great mortification to us, as it cost us the whole day in

in search of them, and obliged us to pass another night at this place.

Having recovered the greater part, I got under sail at noon, shaping our course for the island of Terea, the residence of our new passengers. We found it in latitude 24. 32. S. and 196. East longitude. As we coasted down the Eastern side of the island, it exhibited a most charming prospect. Here nature, unsophisticated by art, parcelled her wide domain into magnificent plantations, stately woods, and spreading lawns of never-fading verdure, admirably adapted to the rising slopes of the mountains, produced a most striking effect. After we had sailed three or four leagues along the coast, we opened a deep bay, agreeable to the information given us by Tzereatti, the principal person we had taken in the canoe, and nearly related to Aratoah, the king of Tereah. About sun-set we came to an anchor in twenty-two fathoms, between two and three miles from the shore. We had handed our sails, and hoisted out the boats, ere a single native made his appearance; which rather surprised us, as we had seen a great many running along shore as we sailed down the island: we therefore prepared to pay them a visit; but, as we were hauling the boat along side, we perceived near twenty of their war canoes, full of men, coming from a small creek at the head of the bay. We asked Tzereatti what were their intentions. He supposed, that never having seen a ship before, they had taken the alarm, and were now coming to reconnoitre; that if they found themselves attacked by superior numbers, they would make a signal to the shore; when they would be reinforced by their whole fleet, to the amount of seven or eight hundred; but that, as soon as they should come
near

near enough to see and speak with him; they would immediately become our friends, and that every thing in the island should be at our command.

They approached us without any kind of order, till within about a quarter of a mile, when the foremost lay too, till those astern came up; they then formed a crescent, and again advanced till they were within about fifty yards: they brought too, and a consultation took place, when a small canoe came forwards, whilst the rest kept their station. The reconnoitring canoe paddled round the ship, giving it a tolerable wide birth. We made signals to them to come along side; but they were extremely shy till they perceived Tzereatti, when they immediately came close to us, but could not be persuaded to come on board. After a short conversation they pulled away for the fleet; and in a few minutes they were all in motion. I told Tzereatti, that I could not suffer more than two or three canoes to come along side at once. He hailed them, and told them what I said; whereupon two of the canoes only came to us. They mounted the ship side without the least symptom of fear; and the interview between them and Tzereatti was tender and affectionate in the extreme. These people, though they had never seen a ship before, did not betray that wonder and surprise which appeared in most of the natives of the neighbouring islands; but their attention was chiefly turned to our Otaheitean ladies, as they were equally strangers to them, except in their language, which has so much affinity, that they easily understood each other; by which means we presently became very well acquainted.

The deputies, for so I may call them, consisted of four of their principal chiefs; one of whom was brother to Tze-reatti, who no sooner learnt the services I had rendered him, than they testified their gratitude in the most lively terms; and, taking him with them, went to make their king, Aratuah, acquainted with the transaction: and, in less than a quarter of an hour, the whole fleet veered about, and rowed to shore.

This step rather surprised us; but our suspense was not of long duration; for, in less than two hours, Tzereatti came, attended by two other canoes, with four fine hogs, two goats, some fowl resembling a pigeon, and a profusion of fruit. He was followed on board by his wife, two daughters about fourteen, and a little boy. For regularity of features and symmetry of shape, they surpassed the Otaheiteans, but their complexions were several shades darker. This family shewed evident tokens of affection and gratitude; and invited us on shore to pay a visit to the king, that he might requite us for saving his kinsman and chief. We kept them on board till the morning; when we manned and armed one of the boats, and proceeded to the shore. A great number of the natives were assembled to receive us as we landed, who conducted us about three miles up the country, to the residence of Aratoah, whom we found seated upon a kind of throne, elevated about a foot and a half from the ground, in a kind of court-yard before the house. His guards, to the number of about one hundred, formed a half circle round the throne, and were armed with a short spear. At our entrance he rose with great stateliness; and, with a firm and dignified step, advanced to meet us. He presented me with his hand, and expressed his friendship for us in the warmest

warmest manner: at the same time, leading the way, took me to his house, which consisted of three large rooms: the outer one is generally the audience chamber, the middle one the eating-room, and the inner the bed-chamber. A sumptuous repast had been prepared, of hogs, goats, fowl, and fish, baked and broiled in the Otaheitean manner; of which, with the bread-fruit, we made a very hearty meal: after which, as is the custom, we took our leave, and left his majesty to enjoy his afternoon's siesta.

When we arrived at the boat, we found her loaded with live stock and vegetables, as full as she could stow—a present from Aratoah—and were given to understand, that we should be honoured with a royal visit the next morning. Tzereatti went off with us, and slept on board in a cot, with which he was highly delighted. I soon found, that although this chief was a married man, and his wife very handsome, his mouth watered at our Otaheitean lasses. He invited them on shore to a feast or heiva; which was intended to celebrate his return, and in honour of their good friends, as they termed us. The diversions were to commence on the king's return to the shore.

A little before noon a long train of canoes appeared rowing towards us, and about twenty passed the ship, and lay too on our quarter, and others rested on their paddles on our bow, when the canoes came along side; in the first was Aratoah, and his two sons; the eldest about twelve, the other two years younger: in the second were the queen Odeanah, and her daughter, a beautiful young creature of sixteen, ornamented with wreaths of oderife-

rous flowers: the third contained several baskets with viands ready cooked. We spread a cloth on the quarter-deck; and, after showing our royal guests round the ship, sat down to dinner on the deck. Odeanah and her daughter amused themselves with our women; and, as they never eat with the men, had their meal in the cabin. Aratoah was highly delighted with every thing he saw; and was particularly inquisitive about the swivels, and solicitous to know their use; upon which I ordered one of them to be loaded; and, giving him a match, shewed him how to fire it. The report alarmed all the canoes, which immediately were in motion; nor were our company on board less astonished. Aratoah fell prostrate, as though he had received an electric shock; and it was some minutes ere he could be persuaded he had received no hurt. By this time a confused murmur, followed by a loud yell, which we understood was a sort of war hoop, proceeded from the canoes; and they were preparing to board us, as they suspected we had done some violence to their king. However, upon his going to the gangway, and waving his hand, they resumed their stations. He now was anxious that I should discharge another, while he stood by to see the effect. He was very curious in examining the powder and ball; and, when fired a second and third time, did not flinch the least; though the women were not so easily reconciled to these strange weapons of destruction.

After dinner, a signal from Tzereatti brought the royal canoes along side; and I was honoured with a seat in that of the king; while Zeniani, and her sister Etianna, followed, with Odeanah and her daughter. As many as chose came in our boats; and, on our arrival on shore, we were led to a beautiful grove of orange trees, the area
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of which was dedicated to their sports. The dancing immediately took place ; and there was great rivalry between our ladies and the Tereans. Every thing was conducted in the greatest order by Tzereatti ; who, on this occasion, officiated as master of the ceremonies. I went off early, leaving Zeniani and her sister, with Odeanah ; who was charmed with her new acquaintance ; as indeed were most of our female ship-mates with them. We continued here near a month, receiving and paying visits from Aratoah and his family ; when I represented to my companions, that we were as likely to be discovered here as at Otaheite ; that I had it in contemplation to shift our quarters ; and, as the common safety and happiness of us all depended upon a perfect unanimity, I should take no step without a general consultation. I observed the fickleness of our Otaheitean mistresses, and the reluctance they would in all probability have in quitting Terea ; that I had no objection to any one taking his wife with him, although they must all be convinced of the inconveniences that would attend the common cause, in making a voyage of any distance with so many women on board ; that for my own part, although I had as much affection for Zeniani as any of them could have for theirs, I should make no scruple to leave her behind, should she evince the least inclination ; and finally recommended them all to sound their mistresses forthwith, respecting their leaving Terea.

As there were but few strong attachments among them, my arguments had their weight ; and, upon declaring our intentions of sailing, out of the fourteen we brought from Otaheite, only four were inclined to proceed with us. Tzereatti, who had ingratiated himself into
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the good graces of my sultana, promised to pay a visit to Otaheite, and take as many of them home as chose to go. He told them it would be a long time, if ever, before we should return. His offer, and the love of novelty, effected what we ardently desired, our emancipation from the filken fetters of love, which, from satiety, had become irksome and insipid.

When we made Aratoah acquainted with our intention of quitting Terea, he expressed much regret, hoped we should soon return, and sent on board abundance of refreshments, such as the country afforded. Accompanied by Odeanah and his beautiful daughter Zeriska, he came to take his leave. As we hove up the anchor, the tears trickled from their eyes; and, at parting, he presented me with his own spear, which he used in battle. The offerings of Odeanah and her fair daughter, were some of their choicest fruits; and a kind of loaves, highly seasoned with the finest aromatics, and, I think, greatly surpassing what we call diet bread in England.

The ship was casting before our royal visitors descended the side; and the adieus were in the same strain with those we experienced at Otaheite. Indeed the customs of these islands are so very similar, that to describe more than one would be but a tiresome repetition of the same subject.

We now shaped our course to the eastward with a pleasant breeze; and the next day, at sun-set, saw the land which I conjectured to be the island of Toobooi. We shortened sail during the night; and, at day-break, found ourselves close in with the centre of the island. As we stood on under an easy sail, we enabled some of the natives
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to come within hail ; but, a squall coming on, obliged them to paddle in shore ; and, as I had no intention of making fresh acquaintances in this part of the world, we made the best of our way to the eastward. They appeared a stout well-limb'd people, of rather a darker complexion than the Otaheiteans. Among the four ladies who continued with us, was Etianna, who, during the time her sister was on board, always shewed me particular attention ; nor could she be persuaded to stay with her sister, who took on terribly at parting with her. She was a different kind of beauty to Zeniani, who was rather masculine, full of fire and animation. Etianna was of the middle stature ; her features perfectly regular, and a melting softness in her eyes, that fascinated as you beheld them. You may be sure I was not behindhand in requiting her partiality for me ; and the time we passed together I shall ever remember with a degree of satisfaction. Two of the Tereans also took it in their heads to secrete themselves on board ; nor did they make their appearance till the next morning ; so that, with the lad we took up with Tzereatti, to whom he belonged, and who had transferred him to me, our ship's company now consisted of sixteen, women included.

The wind freshening at W. N. W. we stood before it, steering E. b. S. and E. S. E. for the island of Juan Fernandez. I considered we should be there perfectly secure from pursuit, and at liberty to concert and arrange at leisure our future plans. The wind continued with little variation till, by the time-piece, we were in the longitude 260 East ; and, by our meridian observation, 31. 12. S. latitude. The wind then shifted suddenly round to E. and E. S. E. which was directly in our teeth, and increased

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to a violent gale, which lasted four and twenty hours, when it gradually subsided into a calm. Our islanders, male as well as female, were much terrified, as they had never experienced so rude a tempest. Indeed the appellation of Pacific, which has been given to this sea, is not inapplicable, if we confine it to the space between the tropics ; but cannot with propriety be applied in its whole extent ; for even on their verge it is as tempestuous as the Northern Atlantic, or any other sea : and, in the high latitudes, storms are more frequent and violent than in any other part of the world. It should seem that the first navigators made their voyages in the summer, when it is remarkably serene and smooth ; and from thence concluded it always presented the same unruffled surface : but the violence of the winter storms, and the heavy, mountainous seas which there prevail, materially change the scene ; and evidently prove, that those who christened it were a little too premature in forming their opinion.

We were five weeks, baffled by contrary winds and calms, ere we made the island ; and, it being near sun-set, we stood off and on till the morning, when we found the current had set so strong to the southward, that we were close in with *Massa Fuero*, called by the Spaniards *Little Juan Fernandes*. Perceiving a kind of bay about a mile a head of us, we brought too, and hoisted a boat out to sound, and see if there was any anchorage : they returned, having found a tolerable good birth for us in 16 fathoms ; where we soon brought too, within a quarter of a mile from the beach. I went on shore in hopes of finding a convenient watering place, and of procuring some fresh stock ; for we had only two dogs left, natives of *Otaheite* ; which would have been served up, but for the deference

deference every one paid to my partiality for them. Their forbearance, however, proved a fortunate circumstance to us all, as there were numbers of goats on the island, but too shy for us to get within gunshot of them; so that, had it not been for my Tippoo and Woufski, we should have been little better for them; they generally provided us with a brace or more every day.

This island is very mountainous, and its summit generally enveloped in the clouds: the surface is irregular; but a most beautiful verdure ornaments the vallies, in which there are great numbers of trees, whose variegated foliage heighten the elegance of the landscape. We discovered no traces of any inhabitants; and I believe it is very seldom visited by navigators, as its vicinity to Juan Fernandez make them prefer that island, on account of its harbours, and the safety with which ships ride at anchor there.

The shores of Maza Fuero are extremely steep, and from forty to fifty fathoms water close in; so that it is very difficult to effect a landing, as a heavy surf rolls on the shore on the slightest agitation of the sea. We met with abundance of fish, as cavalies, bream, congers, and one species very much resembling a carp, but larger, and more delicious: numbers of crawfish were also caught, and were considered a great dainty.

Sharks are not unfrequent visitors here. As one of the people was bathing, he narrowly escaped being devoured by one of those voracious inhabitants of the deep: he was just got over the boat's gunnel, when the animal had turned up its tremendous jaws to snatch his prey. His

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meffmate, who had observed its motions, darted the boat-hook into his mouth ; which produced but little vifible effect on the fifh, but had nearly proved fatal to the aggreffor ; as the monster clofed his teeth with fuch violence, that he snapped the ftaff of the boat hook fhort off, and with the fhock the man was thrown over board. It was with great difficulty he was got into the boat, and preferved from the fury of his incensed adverfary.

We found the dog-fifh very mifchievous, deftroying the fmall fry, and frequently obftructing our fifhing ; for, when they appear, they drive away all others. This fifh has not the leaft refemblance of the animal from which it derives its name, or any other quadruped ; therefore it is not eafy to account how it came to be thus called. The body is rather round, and, in lieu of fcales, is covered with a rough fkin, commonly ufed by cabinet makers, and other mechanics, for fmoothing wood. Its back is of a dark afh colour, the belly white and fmooth ; the eyes are covered with a double membrane, and the mouth armed with two rows of fmall teeth. They have two fins on the back, before which ftand two fharp-pointed prickles : they bring forth their young alive : when full grown they frequently exceed twenty pounds weight.

An immense quantity of oil might be made from the fea-lions, which are in great numbers on the fhores of this ifland. They are termed by the Spaniards oil mon-monfters ; for, when in motion, they appear like a fkin full of oil, from the great quantity of blubber contained in their enormous bodies. Though oil is extracted from the whole fpecies of this amphibious animal, none yield it in any thing like the fame proportion. Adajah, one of the

the Tereans, wounded a lion with a dart, and it immediately plunged into the sea ; but scarce were the surrounding waters tinged with its blood, when the wounded animal was instantly attacked by other species, who, in a very short time, devoured it : which was not the case in several instances with the same species ; though they also dived to the bottom when wounded, their blood had no effect on others, nor did they ever experience an attack from any of their own tribe. They continue at sea all the summer ; and, at the commencement of winter, make for the shore ; where they engender and bring forth their young ; and generally have two at a time, which they suckle with their milk. They feed on the verdure that grows near the shore, and sleep in the most muddy places they can find ; where they roll and flounder about like so many swine. Being naturally of a very lethargic and sleepy habit, the males take it by turns to keep watch ; and are actually posted at convenient distances from each other, at about 100 yards from the herd ; so that it is no easy matter to take them napping : but, as they are very unweildy, we killed several of them, and found the hearts and tongues tolerable eating ; and their fat, when melted down, produces very good oil ; of which, were there any tolerable safe harbour, a considerable traffic might be made.

The uncertainty of the weather, and the very insecure roadsted we were in, determined us to proceed to the island of Juan Fernandez, as the scurvy had began to make its appearance among us. We accordingly got under weigh at day-break, with the wind at S. S. W. and before sun-set made that island : but, as it was too far distant to reach the harbour that night, we stood on under

an easy sail till midnight; we then lay too till the morning; when we found ourselves too far to the eastward; and the current still hurrying us farther, we were much alarmed, lest we should miss the island altogether; and my company being so much reduced, that all hands were scarce able to work the ship: but about noon the current shifted; and at six o'clock we were safe moored in Cumberland bay, about a cable's length from the shore.

We were now quite at ease on the score of being discovered, and set to work with great cheerfulness to erect tents on shore, for the re-establishment of our healths, most of us having symptoms of the scurvy.

We chose a charming piece of ground for the purpose, sheltered from the south wind by a small ridge of hills, lined with a thick wood of myrtle: two cascades of the sweetest water ran from the hills, which half encircled us, and formed a little amphitheatre. In a few days we had erected three tents, and had got all our cooking utensils from the ship; leaving only two hands on board, who were relieved every other day, to keep the ship from fouling her anchor.

In less than ten days, from the salubrity of the air, and the auxiliary of fine-flavoured goat's flesh, and plenty of vegetables, we had not a sick man in our company: but, an accident occurred, which had like to have prevented our future peregrinations, by detaining us on the island, till perhaps we might have been made prisoners by some of the Spanish cruizers; or, what would have been worse, some frigate of our own country, who probably might have looked in here, ere they gave up their search of us.

One morning, at day-break, I was alarmed by seeing a west at the ensign-staff, and immediately perceived the ship drifting. Several of the people being at hand, four of us directly jumped into the boat, and pushed from the beach; but the surf rolling in very high, and, luckily, before we were a hundred yards towards the ship, struck the boat with such violence, that she instantaneously upset, and we were left to the mercy of the waves. However, with some difficulty, as we were mostly very good swimmers, we reached the shore: but, missing one of the people, we were afraid he was carried out with the retiring surge; but at length perceived him, seemingly much exhausted, and near as far distant as where the boat was first upset: upon which Adajah, with great intrepidity, replunged into the surf, and reached him, just as he was sinking.

The rest of the people were now assembled on the beach, and had launched a small canoe, in which two of them sprung; and, with great celerity, paddled to the assistance of the Terean, who had much difficulty to keep his charge above water; but, receiving the end of a rope from the canoe, he kept fast hold of him with one hand till he was towed on shore; the canoe being so small, that, had they endeavoured to take them on board, she must inevitably have been overset.

Our attention was now returned to the ship, which we found had parted the small bower cable, and was now riding by the best bower; but it blowing very strong from the land, we were apprehensive of her parting that also; and, there being only two hands on board, she must certainly have been lost: but, they being very fortunately
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good seamen, had been attentive to their duty, and veered away cable the moment she swung off from the small bower ; consequently relaxed the violence of the jerk the best bower would have sustained ; and, to our no small satisfaction, we perceived her bring up with about two cables out.

The wind going down with the sun, I righted the boat, which the surf had thrown on shore, and went off to the vessel with most of our hands. We hove in the cable ; and, after sweeping about an hour, recovered our small bower anchor : about ten fathoms of the cable remaining thereto, was much cut and rubbed by the foulness of the ground. Early next morning, having a pleasant sea-breeze, we warped the ship into her old birth, again let go the small bower ; and, to prevent a like accident, buoyed up the cables with empty casks, to keep them from the ground.

We spent our time here very pleasantly ; but the wish of returning to society, so prevalent to all ! soon palled every enjoyment ; and a grand consultation was held, to determine on our plan of future operations. My companions, with only one or two exceptions, seemed to have but a general desire ; and not the least dissention or ill will ever appeared among them ; so that, on all questions which concerned our general welfare, the council consisted of the whole crew ; and it has happened not unfrequently, that some of our best planned measures were founded on the crude suggestions of the most inconsiderate of them.

Numberless were the projects proposed, which immediately gave place to others more feasible ; and it was near a week before we could hit on any thing that appeared likely to extricate ourselves from our secluded and forlorn situation. Being wearied out with the adoption, and immediate annihilation of so many plans, they unanimously solicited me again to take charge of their future destiny ; and that they, one and all, would chearfully acquiesce in any plan I might think proper to adopt.

Accordingly, I observed to them how near we were to the continent of South America ; and that, if we could strike out a trade with the Indians on the coast of Chili, such profit might accrue to us from the profusion of gold they were in possession of, and which they could not dispose of to the Spaniards, with whom they were at open war, that we might promise ourselves, in a short time, a comfortable settlement once more in Christian Society : and that Providence seemed particularly to have pointed out a merchandize, in the vast quantity of cod we caught here, which equalled in goodness those from Newfoundland : and, as we had two people who had been brought up in that fishery, and understood the curing and drying them, there was no doubt but we should find a most profitable market for them on that coast.

My ideas were eagerly embraced by all hands, who set about carrying it into immediate execution ; and, while one party was employed taking the fish, another was preparing stages whereon to cure and dry them : success attended our labour, and in about a fortnight we had a tolerable cargo.

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While they were employed in the fishery, two or three of us over-hauled the rigging ; and, where we found it chafed or stranded, set up new. This business was also performed with great alacrity : the gold and silver markets of Chili and Peru had taken such firm possession of our imaginations, that every obstacle which retarded the completion of our plan was, by unremitting diligence and exertion, speedily surmounted.

LETTER

LETTER V.

NOTWITHSTANDING the alacrity with which my proposition was entered into, I was far from being quite at ease respecting its success. Upon reflection, perils presented themselves, which, in the first instance, had entirely escaped my observation. The prevalency of westerly winds rendered the coast a most dreadful lee shore; for a prodigious sea is the effect of every inconsiderable gale, owing to the immense body of water, which, uninterrupted by any land for upwards of two hundred degrees of longitude, with the exception of that narrow tongue, the southern extremity of New Holland, and the island of New Zealand, makes the coast of Chili extremely dangerous; especially to strangers, who, if they escape the fury of the elements, very seldom do the jealousy of the Spaniards, who dispatch all that fall into their hands to the gold mines in the neighbourhood of St. Jago.

Our force was inadequate to encounter the Spanish guarda costas that are stationed along the coasts to prevent smuggling, or carrying on what is called a forced trade, which has been practised to a great extent, and which

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they are endeavouring to annihilate. If by accident we had fallen in with one of these vessels, we had no alternative but to take her, or to make up our minds in the event of being taken ourselves, of being doomed to the mines for the remainder of our days.

On the other hand, our situation was desperate : shut out from all parts frequented by the English, Spanish America was the only part of the globe where we had any chance of eluding that justice we had so flagrantly outraged. The dread of punishment, and the probability that we might be admitted to remain in some of their harbours to refit, under the pretence of being driven on their coast by necessity, banished all alarm from winds and guarda costas, and determined me to follow the plan I had proposed.

Having completely stowed our hold with the cured fish, and collected as much fresh stock and vegetables as we had convenient room for, we struck our tents, took all our utensils of every kind on board ; and, at day-break the next morning, weighed and stood out of the bay, with a pleasant breeze from the W. N. W. but, as soon as we had got a tolerable offing, the wind headed us, blowing strong from E. S. E. so that we did not lose sight of the island till the third day ; on the evening of which we had the wind all round the compass, and every indication of an approaching tempest—a black, lowering atmosphere, with here and there a craggy chafin, through which we could perceive an angry inner sky, and lighter scudding clouds, swiftly passing in different directions. We accordingly hauled up our courses, close reefed the top-sails, and, thus prepared, waited patiently the expected gale ;

gale; but, to our great satisfaction, we were agreeably mistaken. The wind continued variable till the middle watch, when it fixed at W. N. W. and blew a settled moderate breeze; and, the next morning, we made the high mountains of South America, at the distance of fifteen or sixteen leagues.

I now called all hands, and, pointing to the land, observed, that, if we continued standing in, we should, in all probability, be descried from the island of Concepcion, by the Spaniards before evening. I submitted it to them, whether it would not be better to cruize along shore, at such a distance as not to be discovered, in hopes of meeting some of the trading vessels to or from Baldivia; from whom we might obtain information of the station of the guarda costas, and the disposition of the Spaniards towards strangers in those seas.

A most cordial acquiescence to every proposition I made, was evinced by our whole company; and we accordingly kept under an easy sail during the day, steering S. E. but, towards the evening, finding the currents fitting strong to the eastward, and that we neared the land considerably, we wore ship, and brought too with our heads to the N. W. During the night we had some smart showers of rain, with thunder and lightning, which passed off in the dawn of the morning; when we again stretched in for the land.

A whole week passed ere we saw a sail, or experienced the least turbulent weather; when our patience began to give way; and, it being slightly rumoured, that in all probability, our station was too far from the land, to fall

in with any of the coasting vessels; that, between Concepcion and Baldivia there was no port where the guarda costas frequented; and very possibly we should find harbours where we might shelter ourselves till we could procure some intelligence. This opinion becoming pretty general, I immediately determined to comply with it; and set the studding sails, in order that we should be well in with the shore before night.

Our meridian observation being 37. 46. South, we judged the land ahead of us to be the isle of Mocha, nearly the central point between St. Mark and Baldivia, about three leagues from the main. At sun-set, being close in with the land, we shortened sail; and it proving a bold shore, we stood close in, coasting the western side, in hopes of finding a harbour, where we should not be so liable to a discovery as on the eastern coast. Night coming on ere we had attained our purpose, we were again obliged to stand off to sea.

The elements, which had been so long friendly to us, now assumed an angry aspect. Some vivid flashes of lightning, succeeded by loud peals of thunder, brought all hands on deck; and, ere we had time to reef our top-sails, the gale commenced: the halyards were let go; but the sails were instantly split from clue to earing; and, in less than five minutes, both the fore and main top-sails were entirely blown from the yards; which were followed by the main top-mast, which went over the side soon after.

Happily for us, the storm began with the wind at S. E. and, as we put before it, fearing its shifting to the westward,

westward, we had got an offing of near twenty leagues by day-break. During a lull for about an hour, we got in part of the wreck we were yet entangled with, struck our fore top-mast, which appeared to be sprung, and were getting the ship a little to rights, when the wind suddenly flew round to the quarter we so much dreaded with accumulated violence. I immediately lay her too under the mainsail; and she being an excellent sea boat, was tolerably quiet. For two successive days the wind abated not the least of its fury. On the third the thick haze which surrounded us on a sudden clearing away, to our no small astonishment and dismay, we perceived land right ahead of us, not more than two leagues distant. We soon discovered that we were in a deep bay, as we could plainly distinguish the land trending away from S. W. to N. W. from both our quarters.

Our situation was exceedingly perilous: though the wind had moderated, a heavy sea was drifting us on a rocky and apparently inhospitable shore, which summoned all our exertion. We immediately tacked ship, got up a spare top-gallant mast for a jury-top mast; and, fortunately finding the fore top-mast sound, swayed it up, and bent a new fore-top sail. At noon we got an observation, and found our latitude 38. 45. South; and, the wind subsiding into a pleasant breeze, and coming round to the southward, we doubled the northern headland with a flowing sheet: we now perceived a ledge of rocks, with some detached ones, about a league and half from the shore. We immediately bore up, to give them a wide birth. Three leagues to the westward of these, we saw a small hummock of land. As soon as we had got the rocks well astern of us, we hauled up, to pass between
them

them and the island, which appeared about a mile and a half in length ; when we opened the north end of it, we saw the surface of two or three sunken rocks ; on one of which appeared the wreck of a vessel ; and, as we were debating whether we should approach it, we saw the flash of a musket ; but were too far to windward to hear the report.

I immediately determined to afford the unhappy sufferers all the assistance in my power, and accordingly bore away : having hauled up our courses, and lowered the top-sails on the caps, we kept the lead going, and found plenty of water close in to the reef. On nearing the wreck, we perceived three people clinging to a ragged clift of the rock ; and, at a small distance, the masts of the vessel, which had struck, and after upset : the surf ran so high, that every moment they expected to be washed off.

I hoisted out the boat, and, with great difficulty, succeeded in saving these people from their dreadful situation. When they came on board, I found that one of them was a person of distinction, who had been from Conception to the river Imperial, to survey the fortresses on that river ; and was returning, when, in the late gale, they had struck on the rock ; where she continued near two days before she swayed off, and upset. They had hoisted out the boats as soon as they struck ; when so many jumped into them, that two sunk along-side, and the other was dashed to pieces against one of the rocks, and every soul perished.

The eminent service we were so fortunate to render Don Henriques, for so was this noble Spaniard named, was

was attended with the happiest circumstances; it assured me a powerful protector and patron in the disastrous situation in which I was shortly involved. As soon as we learnt his importance, it was necessary to frame some plausible pretext for being in that neighbourhood. I accordingly told him we had been on a voyage of discovery; that the Captain and part of the crew had been cut off by the savages of one of the islands we had fallen in with; and that a series of bad weather, and from the smallness of our complement, which was scarce able to navigate the ship, we had been driven as far to the eastward as Juan Fernandez; and that we were endeavouring to proceed homeward by the streights of Magellan, when the late gale had forced us on their coast.

This story gained full credit with Don Henriques, who promised us ample protection for the ship, and a liberal reward for our services, if we would land him at Concepcion, which was but a few leagues distant. This being an introduction suitable to our warmest wishes, we joyfully acquiesced, and immediately shaped our course thither, steering E. N. E. and the next morning made the opening of the bay; but, as is generally the case on that coast, there was so thick a haze, that, not knowing the channel, and there being a dangerous reef of rocks, we did not dare to make for the harbour; but stood off and on, expecting it to clear up; when, about noon, the wind shifted suddenly to the westward, and blew so violently, that, in spite of all our efforts, we drifted very fast in shore, and, at four o'clock, struck on a reef of rocks on the western side of the bay. The shock was so violent that we could not keep our legs; and the water rushed in with that rapidity, that we had not time

to hoist out the boats; and, in less than ten minutes after she had struck, she went down. I could swim tolerably well; and, on recovering myself, at a few yards distance, saw a grating of one of the hatchways; to which I immediately swam, and on which I floated towards the harbour. I was the whole night in this perilous situation: at day-break, to my great joy, I discovered a small boat rowing towards me. I was so exhausted with cold and fatigue, that I could scarce hold out till they came up to me; and, as soon as they had got me into the boat, sunk down, in an utter insensibility without life, or motion.

When I recovered from my swoon, I found myself in my wet clothes, on a sorry paillasse, in the corner of a wretched cabin, with a thick rug or horse-cloth thrown over me. Several voices in an outer apartment, which I could distinguish to be Spanish, though I was not sufficiently acquainted with the tongue to understand them, were in high altercation. Presently a young mulatto girl gently approached the corner where I lay; and, when she perceived me making signs to her, for I was so exceedingly weak, that I could not speak to be heard, she instantly ran out, and, in a few minutes, returned with her mother; whom I made understand, that I wished to have some dry clothes, and something to drink: as the quantity of salt water I had swallowed, had caused an intolerable thirst. She gave me some paraguay tea; and, in about half an hour, her husband coming home, undressed me, and gave me a dry shirt, and spread a coarse piece of linen on the straw for a sheet.

The fatigue of undressing, in my weak condition, almost overpowered me. They offered me something to eat; but I could take nothing: and towards evening I was attacked with a fever, which, in a few hours, threw me into a violent delirium. For the space of three days, with scarce any intervals, I continued in this dreadful state; when the fever subsided, and left me in a most deplorable condition. The good woman and her daughter were humane and attentive: they gave me a kind of sago, with a little wine in it; and, as soon as my stomach would bear it, boiled a fowl, the broth of which was exceedingly palatable and nourishing: nor indeed was the flesh unacceptable; for, as the disorder left me, my appetite returned: but they dealt it out very sparingly, lest I should eat more than I had strength to digest. However, in a few days my strength was so far recruited, that, supported by a stick, I could walk about the room.

I found that my providential deliverance was owing to the humanity of a mulatto and his son, who gained their livelihood by fishing; and that, when they perceived my situation, after they had got me into the boat, they at first concluded me dead, and were actually going to throw me overboard; but, in lifting me for that purpose, I uttered a faint groan; upon which they resolved to take me to their hut, where I was so hospitably received and attended to. My recovery was greatly retarded by the uneasy state of my mind, in reflecting on the unhappy fate of Etianna, whom I tenderly loved, and my companions in the Bounty, as well as how I should dispose of myself hereafter, there being no staying here without some powerful protector; and the hopes I had entertained during my short acquaintance with Don Henriques, that he

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might have proved such a one, were now entirely destroyed. However, my constitution got the better in the conflict, and conquered both disease and melancholy; so that in six weeks I had quite recovered; but did not dare venture in the city, lest I should be taken for a spy. Indeed, Jeronymo and his family ran some risk in concealing me, as the Spaniards are excessively jealous of strangers; and those found in the provinces without regular passports from the Viceroy of Peru, or some of his officers, are immediately sent to the mines: and, on hearing the story of my shipwreck, would instantly conclude my object was a contraband trade; so that I had little indulgence to expect.

I had now got a little smattering of Spanish; and was continually urging my host to make enquiry, if any other person was saved from the wreck; and told him of our taking up Don Henriques, and of his being on board my ship when she ran on the rocks. He had heard of this nobleman; that there was a great man in St. Jago of that name; but he never had heard of his being at Conception. As my poor host was not possessed of the best information himself, I begged him to make enquiry in the town respecting him. This commission he immediately set about with great cheerfulness, and his endeavours were crowned with such success, that the same evening he brought me news of Don Henriques; the particulars of which were, that he had met with a mulateer from St. Jago, of his acquaintance, that knew Don Henriques perfectly well: he said he had not been at home for some months, but was expected every day by the President and his family, to whom he was nearly related; and that
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the marriage of his eldest daughter, who was contracted to a Spanish grandee, was postponed till his arrival.

In the course of Jeronymo's enquiries, he had unwittingly told the whole story of my shipwreck to an alguazil, who, in his report to the Alcayde or Regidore, made good the old adage, "that a story never loses in the telling," raised the curiosity of the magistrate to such a pitch, that he immediately ordered me and the family of Jeronymo to be taken into custody, and lodged in the town prison till morning, and then brought before him. Accordingly, almost as soon as the honest fisherman had related his tale, the retainers of the law surrounded the hut, and took all that were in it to the common jail.

I was shut up in a gloomy cell, apart from my fellow prisoners, nor did my grim Cerberus deign to bestow on me a single word; but, fastening the door with a massy bar of iron, whose clanging sound, and the grating of the rusty bolts, harrowed up my soul, left me in a state of mind, more easy to be imagined than described. I traversed the cell to and fro great part of the night; till at last, worn out with a thousand disagreeable ideas which forced themselves upon my reflection, I sunk down on a heap of straw, that had been the bed of some unfortunate predecessor in misery. My slumber was unbroken, and, in spite of the horrors that had possessed my mind, I rested tranquilly, till roused by the jailer, who surlily told me I must go with him, for that the officers of the Corrigidore were waiting to conduct me before his greatness. I was accordingly delivered to these minions of justice, attended by a file of musqueteers, who brought me to their principal. This magistrate began my examination in a lofty
tone,

tone, first demanding my passport ; and, when he found I had none, commanded me to give a faithful account of myself, and what business I had in the dominions of his Most Catholic Majesty ; exhorting me, at the same time, to beware of prevarication, as more than my life (the tortures of the rack) depended on my veracity.

My story was nearly the same as I had related to Don Henriques ; but, when I got to the part which related to that gentleman, whom I had no sooner named than he interrupted me ; he ordered every person to depart the room, saying, important reasons of state rendered it improper the interrogatories he had to put to me should be made public. An alteration in the tone and features of the Corregidore instantly took place ; and, lowering his tone, he desired me to describe the person I had taken up at sea. My description left not a doubt on his mind, as to the identity of Don Henriques ; and, when I came to where the Bounty struck, and her subsequent going down, a secret satisfaction evidently betrayed itself, in spite of his outward deportment, which was grave and thoughtful. He repeatedly questioned me, whether any other person was saved : my answers confirmed him in the negative. He rung the bell, and ordered an officer to take me under his charge, to treat me with all possible indulgence, excepting that of abridging me of my liberty, which he left at his discretion, as he expected him to be answerable for my forthcoming.

This unexpected turn in my favor greatly surprised Signor Gaspard, to whose care I was committed : nor was my astonishment a whit the less, as I could not discover any clue in what passed on my examination, that could tend
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to develope the sudden change in the disposition of the Corrigidore towards me: however, my guard was a man whose disposition was naturally compassionate and generous, and whose hospitality scarce needed the exhortation of the Corrigidore to treat me kindly; for, it was not in his nature to have done otherwise.—He took me to his house, and showing me a chamber, told me that was the prison he should consign me to; for he had a presentiment, I possessed too much honor to suffer him to incur the resentment of Don Perez, his master and begged me to consider myself under no restraint, but to make myself as happy and comfortable in his house as though it were my own home. He would scarce permit me to thank him, saying it was a duty, not only enjoined him by his master, but his Maker; who never failed to reward a good action, by infusing a glow of satisfaction in the breast of those who performed them, far superior to any earthly gratification.

After my dismissal my mulatto host, Jeromymo, was also examined, respecting the picking me up, and other circumstances concerning the wreck; and no vestiges of the ship or crew being found, it was concluded I was the only person that was saved from her, and his testimony corroborating mine, he and his family were instantly discharged.

The next morning I learnt from Gaspard that the Corrigidore soon after I had left him had desired his travelling quongo to be immediately got ready, and had set off at day break for St. Jago. The cause of his journey was a profound secret. Before he set off he had sent for him, repeating his charge to take care of me till his return;

return; but my new friend, when I told him the particulars of my story, immediately suggested the cause. He said that Don Henriques was major general of the kingdom of Chili, the disposal of which post was considered as the right of the Corrigidore of Concepcion, and in the royal patent that magistrate is expressly nominated the military commander in chief; and consequently all military vacancies were in his disposal; that he was gone to confer with the president in order to fill up the vacancy occasioned by the death of Don Henriques.

The few days I staid at Concepcion with this honest Spaniard were passed very agreeably in seeing every thing worthy observation in the city and its environs. In my walks I was constantly attended by Gaspard or my old host, who used to call on me every morning to see if he could render me any service.

This town was formerly called Penco, and founded by one Pedro de Valdivia; its inhabitants have experienced many reverses from the incursions of the neighbouring Indians, living on the banks of the River Bibiobi, and have been several times driven from it and obliged to retire to St. Jago; but receiving powerfull succours from the governor of Chili, drove the Indians back and again resumed their possessions.

The city is situated on the S. W. side of a spacious bay, with a pleasant stream running through it: the houses are but of one story, owing to the dreadful earthquakes to which it is subject, and are built of unburnt bricks; the churches, and public buildings are small and insignificant. The College of the Jesuits claims the pre-eminence

eminence, being well built, and the architecture not destitute of taste.

The inhabitants are chiefly Spaniards, and Mestees: with regard to complexion they are hardly distinguishable, being equally fair; some of them even with fine florid countenances. The excellence of the climate, together with the fertility of the soil, hath attracted many families from the less favored parts of this vast continent—The men in general are handsome and well-limb'd, they wear a kind of cloak, something resembling the dress of the Otaheitans, which they call a Poncho; this habit though apparently simple and plain, serves to denote the condition of the wearer: its value is from five dollars to two hundred and fifty, the great disparity in the price is owing to the laces and embroidery with which it is adorned; they are generally manufactured by the Indians, and very fancifully emblazoned in various colours.

The government of Concepcion, is committed to a Corrigidore, whose patent possesses the royal signature; under whom are Alcades and Regidores, a kind of inferior magistrate—In the event of the demise of the Corrigidore, the president of St. Jago, who is supreme governor of the whole kingdom of Chili, appoints a Deputy, who performs the duty of that office till the royal pleasure is signified in the appointment of the successor.—The president makes frequent visits here, in order that that he may the more readily inform himself of the military concerns of the frontiers; keep the neighbouring Indians in awe, and that a proper discipline is kept up in the regiments employed on that service.

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The climate is similar to that of the South of France, but the winters rather colder; they begin in the month of June, and continue till November; but the most severe months are August and September, when storms and hurricanes rise with such sudden rapidity that there is no dependance on an apparent fine day; which renders the coast extremely dangerous. The Northerly winds begin the winter; they come in gradually, and gather strength with the season; till they rage with horrible violence, and raise such tremendous waves, that appal the most hardy and intrepid seaman; and, frequently, without the smallest indication of a change, fly from North to West, and continue with the same force: So that when a ship is combatting the fury of the gale at N. great attention must be paid to her, lest the above change should take place; when, from the sudden and violent resistance the waves meet from the wind, it causes such a dreadful concussion, as frequently to endanger the foundering of the ship.

The productions of this country also have great affinity to the middle parts of Europe, excepting that, of course, the seasons are opposite; corn thrives in an astonishing degree, especially wheat, commonly producing an hundredfold. I saw in a small piece of ground near the sea-side, several stalks of wheat that had spontaneously sprung up, among which were some stems not above fourteen inches high, bearing as many buds or small ramifications as produced near forty ears of corn, some of which measured four inches in length.

Gaspard, who always accompanied me in my walks, seeing me view these productions of nature with attention, and apparent wonder; observed, that there was nothing
extraordinary;

extraordinary; for though indeed the ground in cultivation did not yield so abundantly, it was common to have half a dozen ears on the same stalk: but that the advantages of the spot I had just observed, were produced by the extreme richness of the soil and the moisture of its situation.

From this amazing fecundity of nature, the inhabitants derive but little profit; having no market for it, they sow no more than is sufficient for their own consumption, consequently great part of the country remains uncultivated. Grazing of cattle is their principal employment and from the luxuriency of the pasture the animals, though not so large as ours in England, produce a greater proportion of fat, which with the hide is what turns to the best account. When the season arrives that they are in the best case, the general slaughter commences, when perhaps a single proprietor of a middling farm will kill more than 500 at a time; they melt down the fat, and dry the flesh in smoke, which is called Jerked beef. As a proof of the fertility of this country, a handsome beast, fit for the slaughter-house, may be bought for four dollars!

The method of killing their cattle is rather considered as a diversion than labour, and in the execution of which they are surprisingly dexterous. A horseman is furnished with a spear ten or twelve feet long, armed with a piece of sharp steel in form of a half moon: the beast turned out of the inclosure from the rest, immediately sets off at full speed, and is pursued by the peasant who without checking his horse, cuts the hamstrings of the animal with his halberd, then alights, and having dispatched his

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victim

victim, flays and disburthens it of the fat, cuts up the flesh in pieces for drying, and wrapping up the tallow in the hide, places it on his horse and carries it home; then returns for the flesh, which when housed he is ready for another combat. Sometimes as many beasts are turned loose together as there are horsemen, and this sport is continued daily till the whole number to be slaughtered are compleat—I was surprised not only at the dexterity with which they hamstring the animal, but to see the whole operation performed by a single man, and in so very short a time. If the animal be too fleet for the horse, they have recourse to a coil of small cord, made of thongs of cow-hide, which they carry in their left hand, and in a most surprising manner throw it over his head, and secure him by taking two or three turns round the first tree proper for that purpose, plenty of which are always at hand, and then kills it at leisure. This noose is also a very favourite weapon of theirs in private quarrels, and their address in using it, is really astonishing and renders it very dangerous, as they frequently strangle each other in their encounters. The only method of avoiding being haltered, when you meet your adversary with the noose, is to take shelter against a tree, or, if in the open country, to throw yourself on the ground keeping your legs and arms as close as possible to the surface, so that there be no possibility of passing the cord between you and the ground; if in a street, the wall is your only refuge, which renders all their dexterity ineffectual.*

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* An anecdote is mentioned, as an instance of their address, the long boat of an English Privateer, lying in Conception Bay, attempting to land, with a view of plundering the neighbouring

The country in this neighbourhood is intersected by various rivers, some of which are very considerable, as the Arauca, and the Biobio; the latter of which, several leagues above the mouth, is near twelve miles in breadth; sometimes in dry summers it may be forded, but is generally passed in Balzas, a vehicle much used throughout this Continent.

These Balzas, or Rafts, are composed of several spars of a soft wood, and so light that a boy can easily manage a very large log—a strong covering of reeds forms an arch over it, and protects the merchandize from the weather; their sails are hoisted on a pair of shears instead of a mast. The spars are lashed together with cross pieces at each end, and so securely that they resist the rapidity of the currents and the violence of the surfs in their voyages along the coast; for they not only use these vehicles on the rivers, but frequently perform considerable voyages on the sea in them.

The Indians are so very skilful in securing them, that they seldom or never loosen, notwithstanding their continual agitation; tho' sometimes their over security causes

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bouring villages; was opposed by a body of the country militia, upon whom the English fired a volley of musquet shot, thinking that would be sufficient to disperse them. They had no sooner discharged their pieces, than one of the peasants singling out his man, threw his noose, and although the boat was at a considerable distance, snatched him out of the boat with inconceivable rapidity, and in spite of all the efforts of his comrades, made him their prisoner.

them to neglect the inspection of their lashings, whether they are decaying, so as to require others, which has been the cause of many accidents, by the parting or separation of Balzas ; from the cordage, having rotted by the length of time it had been in use, which occasions the loss of the cargo and the lives of many of the passengers. The Indians are very little discomposed at these shipwrecks, as they never fail to get hold of some of the beams, which is sufficient for them to make the shore.

The principal beam projects farther ast than any other, and to this are lashed the first beams on each side; and thus successively till the whole are secured.—The larger Balzas carry five or six hundred quintals.

These floating machines make very little lee-way, and work to windward as well, or better than the generality of vessels; they derive this advantage by means of sliding keels,* which they call Guaras; they are formed of some stout planks, strongly bolted together, about ten feet in length, and two and a half in breadth; these are let down vertically in the fore and after part of the vessel, between the main beams; by the immersion of them, more or less, they luff, tack, lay too, bear away, and perform all the evolutions of a regular ship: thus, when the Guara, or keel is shoved down, forwards, it occasions the vessel to luff up; on raising it, she will instantly fall off: likewise,

* His Majesty's Cutter, the Tryal, is furnished with similar keels; the invention of the worthy and ingenious Captain John Schank, of the Royal Navy, which has answered to admiration.

wife, when it is let down abaft, ſhe will bear up, but when raiſed, again comes to the wind. This is the method by which the Indians ſteer the Balzas, and ſometimes they make uſe of five or ſix of the keels to prevent making lee-way.—This method of ſteering is ſo eaſy and ſimple that when once the Balza is under way, one only is made uſe of, raiſing or lowering it as circumſtances require.—The rivers abound in fiſh, which for great part of the year afford employment for the Indians and Mulattoes who reſide on their banks; on the decline of ſummer, having reaped the produce of their little farms, they prepare for their fiſhing excuſions, after giving the neceſſary repairs, and erecting a tilt on their Balzas, they take on board a quantity of ſalt, harpoons and darts; as to their proviſion it conſiſts chiefly of maize, plantains hung beef, &c. Every thing being ready for their departure, they ſhip their canoes, their families and the little furniture they are maſters of on board their Balzas. They now ſteer to the mouth of ſome large creek, where they know there are great quantities of the finny tribe: here they ſtay during the whole time of the fiſhery; unleſs they are diſappointed, when they change their ſtation till they complete their cargo; they then return, take their fiſh to different markets, and with their produce purchaſe cloathing and neceſſaries for themſelves and families.

Their method of fiſhing is thus; having moored their Balza near the mouth of a creek, they take to their canoes, and on ſight of a fiſh, paddle towards it, and when within their diſtance, dart at it with ſuch dexterity, that they ſeldom miſs; if there be plenty of fiſh, they will load a canoe in three or four hours; when they re-
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turn to their Balzas to dry and cure them. Where the creeks form a kind of lake, and the water is undisturbed, they make use of a herb, which they chew, mix with the bait, and scatter it on the water. The juice of this herb, of which they are ravenously fond, is so strong, that the fish on eating very little of it, becomes so intoxicated as to float on the surface, and the fishers have no trouble whatever in taking them. The juice is fatal to the smaller fry, and even to the large fish if they have eaten a great quantity: one would be apt to suppose any thing that had imbibed so deleterious a drug would be unwholesome; but experience has proved to the contrary, as not a single bad effect has ever been known to arise from eating them.

On the Southern banks of the Biobio, about five leagues South of Concepcion bay, the territories of the unsubjugated Indians begin; to prevent incursions from whom, strong forts are erected along the banks, well garisoned, and furnished with all kinds of military stores, which keep these gentry in check, and protect the Spanish settlements from their depredations.

These Indians are not governed, like those to the Northward, by Caciques, or any nominal magistrate, the only subordination known among them, is with regard to age; so that the most aged of the family is respected as its governor. When the Spaniards go among them to barter, the negociation commences by the Spaniard offering a goblet of wine to the chief of the family, upon which, if accepted, he begins to display his goods, such as hard-ware, bits, spurs, edge tools, toys and wine; and though the Indians have plenty of gold in their territories,

ries, they cannot be induced to open their mines; therefore the Spaniards get very little of that commodity, and their returns chiefly consist in horned cattle, horses, and Indian children of both sexes. But for the honour of the Spanish nation, I must do it the justice to say, that no Spaniard of any character, will be concerned in such a barbarous traffick, which is chiefly carried on by the meanest classes settled in Chili.—If the bargain is agreed to, the chief of the family, receives a small present of wine, and he signifies to the rest of the tribe, that the stranger has his permission to trade with them.—Having obtained this protection, he proceeds from hut to hut, and leaves whatever the Indians have a mind to, without, at that time, taking any equivalent for his goods, thus he proceeds thro the different districts, till he has disposed of his whole stock.

He then returns to the cottage of the chief, calling on his customers in his way, and acquaints them that he is on his return home: upon this summons, every one according to the bargains made, punctually brings the articles agreed on. When he departs, they take leave of him with all the appearance of real friendship, and frequently escort him to the frontiers; assisting in driving and taking care of the cattle he has received in exchange for his goods.

Formerly these traders dealt largely in wine, of which as well as of all other intoxicating liquors, the Indians were immoderately fond; but on account of the tumults and wars that arose from the intemperate use of spirituous liquors; this branch of commerce has been suppressed, and no more wine suffered to pass the frontiers than what

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is judged necessary to compliment the chiefs with as presents; notwithstanding the prohibition they find means to smuggle a small quantity. The happy effects of this regulation are reciprocally felt by both parties; the Spaniards dwell in safety, and the Indians in peace and tranquility. They are exemplary in their dealings, and punctual in their payments; it is rather remarkable that a people, unrestrained, almost strangers to government, ferocious and savage in their manners, should, amidst the gratification of the most heinous vices, have so delicate a sense of honour and justice, as to observe their dictates in the most irreproachable manner.

All attempts of the Spaniards to subjugate these tribes have hitherto been frustrated. When hard pressed they quit their huts, and retire to the interior of the country, where they are joined by other nations; and when collected, they return in such force, that resistance would be rash and vain, and again take possession of their habitations, which are quitted on the first signs of their approach. A quarrel with an individual tribe soon kindles into a general and wide-spreading flame, and their measures are taken with such secrecy, that the first declaration of hostilities is the massacring all those in their power, and ravaging the villages in their neighbourhood. The first step they take after being resolved on commencing a war, is to give notice to the nations for assembling; this they call *Correa la Fletcha*, to shoot the dart; this summons is sent from village to village, with the utmost secrecy. In these notices they specify the night when the irruption is to be made, and though the Indians who reside among the Spaniards have intelligence of it, not a syllable transpires; nor is there a single instance
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upon record among all the Indians that have been taken up on suspicion, that one ever made any discovery: and as no great preparations are necessary in this kind of war, their intentions are impenetrable till the terrible moment of blood and havock. The Indians of the different tribes being assembled, they choose a general, whom they call Toqui: and when the night fixed for executing their design arrives, those who dwell in the Spanish settlements, rise and massacre them: after which they separate into small parties, and destroy the seats, farm houses and even whole villages; murdering all without distinction; equally regardless of sex, youth, or age. They afterwards unite, and in a body attack the more considerable settlements; besiege the forts, and commit every kind of hostility and depredation,

Their vast numbers, rather than any kind of order or discipline, have enabled them, on many occasions, to repel any inroads upon their territories with success, and even to become aggressors in their turn, notwithstanding all the measures taken to prevent them; for though multitudes of them fall on these occasions, their army continually receives larger reinforcements. When it happens that the Spaniards gain the superiority, the enemy retire several leagues into the country, and conceal themselves for some time, and, when least expected, they fall on a different quarter from where they were encamped; and frequently carry the place by storm; unless the commandant is extremely vigilant to guard against these surprises, when, by the superior discipline of the Spaniards, they are generally repulsed with great slaughter.

These wars have been continued with great obstinacy, with but short intervals of peace, ever since the first attempts of the Spaniards to subjugate this country*.

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* In the year 1535, when Almagro and Pizarro had completely subdued the Peruvians, the former commenced his expedition against Chili, with a considerable body of forces, consisting of Spaniards, and Indians. He marched from Cusco, and was assisted with provisions and guides by the Indians, who had been subjects to the Incas of Peru, near two hundred leagues on his way; but arriving at the inhospitable country of Charcos, his troops manifested evident marks of discontent, from the great hardships, they underwent; which determined the chief to pass the Cordilleras, being the shortest, though most difficult, way to Chili.—The mountains were then covered with snow, and the cold so intense that he lost some thousands of his Indians, who perished by the cold, in passing these dreadful mountains, and near two hundred of the Spaniards shared the same fate; while many of the survivors lost their toes, fingers, and even whole limbs which, from being frost-bit, rotted off.

After encountering incredible difficulties they effected their passage, and arrived in the fine temperate country of Cupiapo, where the Indians without risking the chance of war, tamely submitted, and presented the invaders with great quantities of gold.—This pusillanimity, and the hope of immense treasures, animated Almagro to attempt the subjugation of the whole country; which he laid his account of accomplishing with little or no trouble; but he was soon convinced of his mistake; for as he advanced to the southward every inch of ground was disputed with the greatest resolution and bravery: but in a few months, from the perseverance and superior discipline of the Spaniards

These Indians are almost in continual warfare with the Spaniards, who are much annoyed by them; on the contrary their adversaries suffer but little inconvenience in war;

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Spaniards, the whole province must have been subdued, had not Almagro been recalled to Peru, in consequence of a government being conferred on him by his Catholic Majesty.

A dispute now arose between Pizarro and the new governor, with regard to the boundaries of their respective governments. Almagro, impatient to take possession, and pretending that the city of Cusco ought to be included in his government, the conquest was suspended; and he hastened to that city, where instead of being invested with the chief command, he fell a sacrifice to the intrigues and jealousy of Pizarro, who endeavoured to conceal his iniquitous proceedings under the veil of Justice.

Pizarro now having the supreme command, sent Pedro de Valdivia into Chili, on whom he conferred the title of general: he was reckoned one of the best officers in the Spanish service. As he penetrated to the Southward he experienced great opposition from the confederated tribes, who frequently gave him battle, and displayed great courage and resolution, but their efforts were in vain; and he penetrated to the fertile and populous valley of Mapocha, where he founded the celebrated town of St. Jago, which has become the capitol of Chili; learning from the Indians that there were gold mines in the vicinity, he recompensed them for their intelligence by forcing them to extract the precious metal from its subterraneous repository.

To preserve his new acquisition he erected a strong castle, which was very soon afterwards demolished by the Indians; who exasperated at being enslaved by these new comers, took up
arms

for most of their occupations are performed by the women. Their huts are run up in a day or two, and their food consists of roots, maize, and other grain. War therefore

arms, and attacked the fortresses; though several times repulsed and defeated with great slaughter, they at last succeeded in firing the outworks which contained all the provisions of the Spaniards; and carried on the war with great vigour; which roused Valdivia to exert his utmost efforts to check them; and having overcome them in many battles, disputed with the greatest obstinacy, forced the whole valley to submit, and immediately sentenced the vanquished to work in the mines of Quilotta.

This indignity roused the resentment of those yet unconquered, but they were unable to check the course of the victorious Spaniard, who after crossing the large rivers Maule, and Hata, and traversing a large tract of country, founded the cities of Concepcion, and Imperial. According to the Spanish writers, the neighbouring valley contained eighty thousand peaceable inhabitants, who suffered the Spanish general to parcel out their lands among his followers without the least murmur of dissatisfaction. Sixteen leagues to the eastward of Imperial, Valdivia founded the city of Villa Rica, so called on account of the gold mines found there: this was the last conquest of that great man. His ambition and avarice had precipitated him into difficulties insurmountable; for he had pushed his conquests beyond what his strength was capable of maintaining.

The Chilians were still resolved on recovering their liberties. In the course of the war, their first ideas, that the Spaniards were supernatural beings, were done away; they had discovered

therefore is no impediment or loss to them ; indeed, they rather consider it as desirable, their hours in time of peace being spent in idleness, and feasting, in which they intoxicate

ed that they were mortal men, like themselves ; and that their victories had only been obtained by superior arms, and discipline; they therefore hoped their numbers and unanimity would enable them to expel the tyrannical usurpers. The chiefs of the confederation were the Aracau Indians ; they chose a chief called Capaulican, who assembled near twenty thousand of them under his banner. Valdivia attacked the insurgents with his cavalry and drove them into the woods, from whence they made continual forays, harassing the Spaniards daily. Capaulican observing that the numbers who had joined him served but to encrease the disorder and contribute to the defeat of the whole, divided his force into bodies of one thousand men each ; these were to attack the enemy in turns, and when unable to make any longer stand, were to be reinforced by another body of fresh troops, which would at last infallibly weary out and overcome their enemies. The event answered his expectation, the Indians supported an action for seven or eight hours, when the Spaniards, growing faint for want of refreshment, retired precipitately ; their general ordered them to gain a pass at some distance from the field of battle, to stop the pursuit, but the Indians penetrating his design surrounded them on all sides ; and they were literally cut in pieces by their savage conquerors.

The general was taken prisoner, and put to death with the tortures usually inflicted by the Indians; and it is added that they even poured gold down his throat as a reward for his avarice.—Of his bones they made flutes and other instruments, and his skull is preserved as a monument of their victory, which they celebrate by an annual festival.

After

cate themselves with a liquor called Chica, made from apples.

The first overtures towards a treaty of peace with the Indians are generally made by the Spaniards; and as soon as the preliminaries are agreed to, a congress is held, at which the governor, his principal officers, the bishop of Conception, and other persons of eminence assist. On the part of the Indians, the Toqui, or grand chief, with the chiefs of the different tribes, as representatives of the Indian nation repair to the congress.

On holding a congress, the president sends notice to the frontier Indians of the day and place, whither he repairs with his assistants, and the Indians meet him with the chiefs of their several communities; both parties are escorted by a number previously agreed on. The Spaniards lodge in tents, and the Indians encamp at a small distance. The elders of the neighbouring nations pay the first visit to the president, who receives them very courteously, drinks their healths in wine, and gives them the glass himself

After this the Chilifians had another engagement in which they also proved victorious, defeating the Spaniards with the loss of near three thousand men: with this success they employed their whole force to extirpate their enemies, Conception was taken and destroyed, but their progress was stopped at the siege of Imperial, by Don Garcia de Mendoza, who defeated the brave Capaulican, took him prisoner, and put him to death. The Indians, however, were not to be dispirited by defeat, they continued the war for upwards of fifty years, and to this day remain unconquered.

himself, to do the like. This politeness, with which they are highly pleased, is succeeded by a present of knives, Scissors and different sorts of toys on which they place the greatest value. The treaty is then brought on the carpet, and the respective articles settled; after which they return to their camp, and the president returns the visit, carrying with him wine sufficient for a handsome regale.

The chiefs of the other communities who were not present at the first visit, go in a body to pay their respects to the president. On dissolving the congress the president makes each a present of a small quantity of wine, which is liberally returned in oxen, calves, horses, and fowls: after these reciprocal marks of friendship both parties return to their respective habitations.

The Indians, who, in our estimation, are wretchedly poor, possess the most inflexible pride, which can only be softened by condescension and favours. This induces the president to invite those who are of consequence to his table, and during the time of the congress neglects nothing to engratiate himself with the whole body.

On these occasions a kind of fair is held in both camps, great numbers of the Spaniards repairing thither with such goods as they know the Indians have occasion for, who also bring cattle and cloths of their own weaving, of which the Ponchos are made: both sides deal by exchange and never fail of disposing of their whole stock.

One trait to the credit of these savages should not escape observation, which is that, amidst all their sanguinary rage, in their hostilities they always spare the white women

men, carrying them to their huts, paying more deference to them than even their own.—Hence it is, that many Indians may be mistaken for Spaniards by the fairness of their skin. In peaceable times they come into the Spanish colonies and hire themselves to work in the farms; at the expiration of the time specified they return home, after laying out their wages in the purchase of such goods as will turn to account in their own country. Those living in the province of Arauca, Tucapel, and in the neighbourhood of the River Biobio are extremely fond of riding, and their armies have large troops of horse: their weapons are chiefly large spears and javelins in the use of which they are very dexterous.

This circumstantial account of the Indians I had from my friend Gaspard, who had formerly traded among them for some years, and was perfectly acquainted with their manners, customs, traditional history, &c.

L E T T E R

L E T T E R VI.

I had been a fortnight in the custody of my kind friend Gaspard, when he received an order to conduct me immediately to St. Jago, and accordingly the next morning, after taking an affectionate farewell of honest Jeronymo and his family, we set off for the capital, in a calash, attended by the courier of the *corrigidore* on horse-back.

My mind was in too great a state of uncertainty, as to what kind of reception I should meet with, to permit me to enjoy the beauties of the journey; for, notwithstanding the encouraging assurances of my fellow traveller, who was convinced by the manner I was sent for, I had nothing to apprehend, I could not entirely lay aside my fears, and my imagination was tortured with the dread of dungeons, and the horror of finishing my existence in the mines.

On the fourth day, in the evening, we reached St. Jago; and Gaspard announced our arrival at the president's; he was informed, that the *corrigidore* was with that nobleman at his villa, about four leagues from the town; but that he had left orders I should be conducted thither. Having taken a slight refreshment we proceeded to the

summer residence of the president, but did not arrive till it was too late to see him that evening; so took up our lodging with an old comrade of Gaspard, who dwelt in the neighbourhood.

The next morning about ten, I was ordered to attend the corrigidore, and with fear and trembling ushered into his presence. He very soon dispelled my fears, by mildly asking me how I had spent my time at Conception, and informing me that the president was acquainted with the obligations himself and family lay under to me for the preservation of a near relation, for which service he would not prove ungrateful; "Don Henriques," said he, will be overjoyed to have it in his power to acquit himself of the obligation; he is at present a little indisposed at St. Jago, whither I shall return in a day or two; in the mean time I have ordered an apartment for you here, that you may repose yourself from the fatigues of your journey; saying this he graciously dismissed me, overwhelmed with joy; and surprise. My curiosity was raised to the highest pitch at the intelligence of Don Henriques' safety, and I burned with impatience to learn from that gentleman the particulars of his preservation; flattering myself that probably there might be many others saved from the Bounty by the same means, and that my Etianna might be among the number.

Elated by this idea I returned to Gaspard, who was waiting in an outer room: by the alteration in my countenance he perceived that his conjectures respecting my reception were not far wrong; and when I informed him that Don Henriques was saved from the ship, and had returned safe, he most cordially congratulated me, saying
that

that my fortune was made; that the liberality of the gentleman was proverbial, and that I might rest perfectly satisfied of his friendship, gratitude and protection.

The two days I remained here were intolerably tedious, although my situation was extremely comfortable, and I was treated with great deference by the household of the president, Don Garcia. At last I was sent for by the corrigidore, who told me that as he could not return to town so soon as he expected, he had given orders for one of his carriages to take me thither; at the same time presenting me with a purse of one hundred pistoles from the president, who was confined to his chamber by the gout, desired Gaspard to see me properly equipped at St. Jago, and then to acquaint Don Henriques of my arrival.

My heart was too full with this accession of good fortune to permit me verbally to thank the corrigidore for his kindness, with my eyes swimming in gratitude, I respectfully bowed and retired. The chaise was not long in getting ready, and in half an hour we were on our return to St. Jago.

We alighted in the suburbs, and sent to the different tradesmen for cloaths and other necessaries, and before dinner I was furnished at all points; nor was my purse a whit the lighter, for Gaspard had orders to place the whole to the account of his master. After a slight repast we proceeded to the residence of Don Henriques, who received me with marks of the most lively gratitude and friendship, and as he had not yet dined seated me next him at the table.

The company consisted only of his own family: Donna Marcia, the lady of Don Henriques, who seemed about six and thirty, appeared in the prime of beauty, and were it not for the presence of Don Alphonso, her son, a fine young man of twenty, and the beautiful Lucia, her daughter, three years younger, she might, without any violence to decency, drop at least half a score years. They had been previously acquainted with the outlines of my story, and seemed to vie with each other who should shew me the greatest attention. After dinner Don Henriques took me to his closet, and desiring me to sit down by him, gave the following account of his preservation.

“The sudden shock when the ship swung off from the rock, threw me a considerable distance from the vortex occasioned by her going down, and a hen-coop floating within my reach, enabled me to keep above water. I was almost driven to despair to perceive myself in a strong current, setting seaward, which carried me out at a great rate. I continued in this perilous state some hours, when I perceived a vessel laying too, and as I thought, in the act of hoisting out their boat, which in a few minutes pushed from alongside and made towards me. In about an hour they picked me up, almost lifeless with fatigue and apprehension.”

“The master of the vessel immediately recognised me, and paid me every possible attention and respect. Understanding they were from Baldivia, bound first to Callao, from thence to Quito; I would not suffer him to return to Concepcion, which he offered, but desired him to land me at Valparaiso, which was no great deal out of his way. On getting a shore I was so much indisposed with my late perils

perils, that I was unable to travel for some time ; being a little recovered I set out, and by easy journeys at last reached this place ; where I found the corrigidore of Conception had arrived about a week before. My family were in deep mourning, occasioned by the news of my death, brought by that magistrate, who had actually come to St. Jago to solicit the posts, vacant by my demise, for his nephew. As soon as I learnt that you were safe at Conception, I immediately requested that you might be sent for hither without delay, which his excellency readily complied with. And I now hope it is in my power to repay the debt of gratitude I owe, and fullfil the promises I formerly made you."

When he concluded I eagerly asked if any more of the ship's company were taken up by the same vessel, which he answered in the negative, and agreed with me that in all probability we were the only persons saved from the wreck ; though I entertained some faint hopes that, as the currents in the spot where we struck ran in various directions, some of the crew might be driven a different way, and picked up also, by other vessels.

On rejoining the company he very particularly introduced me to his son, Alphonso, telling him that he hoped he would admit me to his friendship, and ever look on me as the preserver of his father's life. The young man embraced me with the greatest cordiality, and from that moment, we conceived a friendship for each other, which I trust will terminate but with our lives.

Having acquainted Don Henriques with the obligation I lay under to my friend Gaspard ; when he came the
next

next day to take his leave, he made him a handsome present, and told him that henceforward he might look on him as his friend; and, should any occasion occur wherein his interest could be of service, to apply to him without reserve, and he would exert it in his favour. The services I had received from this worthy Spaniard, had endeared him to me, and it was with unfeigned and reciprocal tears of regret that we parted.

My time now passed very agreeably, I was caressed and respected by the whole family, and happy in the friendship of Don Alphonso; I shared in all his amusements so that we were almost inseparable. This attachment gave great pleasure to his father, as it facilitated the adoption of a plan he had long projected; which was that of my accompanying his son in his travels, as he meant that he should be locally acquainted with the principal provinces and cities of this rich and extensive country, previous to his embarking for Spain, which had been pressing-ly urged by a rich and powerful uncle, who had destined him heir to all his possessions.

Alphonso had frequently mentioned how much he should be delighted if his father would permit me to go with him on his tour, which they were now preparing for: our wishes were mutual, and it was resolved that Alphonso should solicit his father's consent; but this application was prevented by Don Henriques communicating his intentions to me the same afternoon. He said he had been long searching for a proper person to travel with his son; and as we were so much attached to each other he was desirous that I should be the companion of his journey, in the course of which as we should make some sea voyages,
my

my instructions would be particularly useful in perfecting him in the practical part of navigation, and instruct him in the principles of seamanship, as he had already been several voyages, being intended by his uncle to fill some post in the naval department. He added, that he should allow me two hundred and fifty pistoles a year, and that every thing necessary should be supplied me, exactly the same as for his son. My prompt compliance with his request gave him the greatest satisfaction, and the preparations for our outfit were carried on with the utmost celerity.

The city of St. Jago has not been harassed by revolutions as other places in its neighbourhood, but retains its original scite, as founded by Pedro de Valdivia; it is 33 degrees, 38 minutes south latitude, and about twenty leagues to the S. E. of Valparaíso, which is the nearest port: its situation is delightful in the extreme, standing in the centre of a verdant plain, four and twenty leagues in extent; watered by a river meandering through the middle, whose serpentine directions afford refreshment to every part; its name is Mapocha, the same as that of the plain: By means of aqueducts the water is conveyed from it through the streets and gardens, which scarce any houses are without.

The city is about a mile and a quarter from east to West, and three quarters from North to South; it is supposed to contain about six thousand families, more than one half of which are Spaniards, many of whom possess large fortunes; the other a variety of the different casts, produced from their intercourse with the Indians, as Mulattoes, Mestees, Quateroons, &c. &c.

Across

Across the river on the North side is a large Fauxbourg called Chimba, and on the East side is the mountain of Santa Lucia, of a moderate height, remarkable for the salubrity of a spring which issues from it. The streets are built at right angles, the uniformity of which has the most pleasing effect.

In the middle of the town is the grand Piazza, with a beautiful fountain in the centre, and on the north side are the palace of the president, the town house and the prison. The west side is occupied by the cathedral, the bishop's palace, and some others belonging to people of the first distinction, among which is that of Don Henriques: the south side is wholly dedicated to commerce, and is filled with shops, prettily decorated; and the east is bounded by a row of houses, belonging to persons in the middling sphere of life: there are also several good squares, regularly built, but in general low, on account of the earthquakes which are very frequent in this part of the world: notwithstanding they have a very handsome appearance, and are equally contrived both for convenience and pleasure. Here are three churches, as many monasteries, five colleges of the Jesuits, and four nuneries. The churches of the convents and colleges are built of brick or stone, and are more spacious and elegant than the common parish churches. The inhabitants are more attentive to their persons than at Conception, and all who can any ways afford it keep a calash to ride about the city. The men are robust and well made, the women are very handsome and remarkable for the regularity of their features and the delicacy of their complexion, but they most abominably addict themselves to painting, which very

soon

soon destroys not only the natural beauty of their skin but even their teeth, so that it is a rarity to see a woman turned of thirty with a good set:

The temperature of the air, the richness of the soil, and the abundance of all kinds of provisions, are nearly the same as at Concepcion. The farmers also have their respective occupations; some wholly applying themselves to agriculture; others to grazing of cattle; some to breeding horses, others again to the culture of vines and fruit trees, of which there are numberless kinds. The productions arising from this industry, are the principal articles of commerce of this kingdom with Peru, which consists of wheat, tallow, cordage, hides, cordovan leather, which is made of the skins of goats, of which there are vast numbers: great quantities of fruit, as nuts, filberds, figs, pears, apples, and olives; the oil produced from which is in great estimation.

Besides the commerce of provisions, a most valuable one of metals is carried on with the Peruvians; the country abounding in mines of various metals; the principal of which is the gold and copper mines; there are also, silver, tin, lead, and iron, mines in abundance, the most esteemed gold mine is that called Ora Capote, in the neighbourhood of Coquimbo. All the gold collected from these mines is bought up in the country and sent to Lima to be coined; it is supposed to amount, one year with another, to upwards of a million of dollars.

Their imports from Peru are cloth, linen, sugar, cocoa, sweetmeats, tobacco, pickles, oil, earthen ware, and all kind of European goods. They have also some trade with

Buenos Ayres; where they dispose of the superfluities which they receive from Peru; large quantities of tallow, woollen, stuffs, &c. of their own manufactory: the importations from whence chiefly consists in the Paraguay herb*, and wax.

The produce of the revenues of St. Jago and Concepcion not being sufficient to maintain a small standing army of about fifteen hundred men, one hundred thousand dollars are annually remitted from Lima for their subsistence, a
great

* This herb answers to the tea of the Chinese, and is nearly of as much consequence in the scale of commerce; it is in universal use through the whole extent of Spanish America: the method of preparing this tea is as follows. They put a quantity of this herb into a calabash, mounted with silver, which they call mate, with a proportion of sugar to make it palatable, they cover the herb with cold water and let it stand to soak. After it has been some time in this state, the calabash is filled with boiling water. The herb being thoroughly saturated they drink the liquor through a tube fixed in the calabash; they replenish it with water till the sediment sinks to the bottom; when all its strength is exhausted; they squeeze lime or lemon juice into it, mixed with essences from different flowers, which render it highly agreeable.

This is their usual drink in the morning, and many also take it in the evening: the salubrity of this beverage cannot be denied, but in general the taking of it is very indelicate, as the whole company have it by turns, all making use of the same tube. Thus the calabash is carried several times round the company, till all are satisfied. This tea is in the greatest estimation among the Creoles and is their highest enjoyment; even when they travel they never fail to carry a quantity with them, and on no account whatever will they eat till they have taken their dose of mate.

great part of which is deducted for repairing the forts on the frontiers, and making presents to the Indian deputies, in order to maintain a good understanding with them.

The royal audience consists of the president, four auditors, and a fiscal; the patron of the Indians, which is Don Henriques, also belongs to this court, the determinations of which are without appeal; except in cases of notorious injustice or denial of redress, when it is referred to the supreme council of the Indies. The president, though subordinate to the viceroy of Lima, is governor and captain general of the whole kingdom of Chili, and as before observed is obliged to reside one half the year at Concepcion. During his residence at St. Jago the corregidore is his locum tenens: the royal treasury is directed by an accountant and treasurer, who receives the tributes of the Indians, and the different revenues of the kingdom. A court of the inquisition is established here, all the officers of which are appointed by the grand tribunal at Lima; but instances of human sacrifices by the decision of these detestable institutions are much seldomer here than in old Spain.

Every thing being ready for our departure for Valparaíso, where a vessel was prepared for our reception, we took an affectionate farewell of the family of Don Henriques, who accompanied us himself to the port; we left St. Jago on the Thirteenth of January 1791, and making very easy journeys arrived at Valparaíso on the sixteenth: we were detained here a week by contrary winds, during which Don Henriques introduced me to many respectable merchants, and took us to see some gold mines between this port and Quilotta, called

Lavaderos, which yields gold dust, and sometimes lumps of pure gold are found of considerable value.

These Lavaderos are pits dug in the ravines or gullies made by the rains, where from the colour of the earth, it is supposed there is gold; in order to discover the metal, a stream of water is turned through the trench, and the earth briskly stirred and spread abroad that the particles of gold may be carried down by the current of water into the pits. The ride was exceeding pleasant, the number of villages and farmhouses scattered here and there; the droves of mules laden with merchandise, and the songs and merriment of the muleteers, continually passing between this and St. Jago, gives the country an opulent and cheerful appearance.

The wind becoming favorable we took a farewell dinner with the principal merchants of the place, and Don Henriques having furnished me with unlimited letters of credit to Lima; a most affectionate scene took place between this honoured parent and his son, whom he committed to my charge, as he was pleased to say, with the fullest assurance that no care or attention would be wanting on my part, either to instruct him in his destined profession, or alleviate any untoward casualties that might probably happen in so long a journey.

On the 24th. of January we embarked on board the Santa Cathalina of about two hundred tons burthen, commanded by a native of Lima, Pedro D'Aguga, a pleasant companionable man, but no conjurer in his profession; at the instance of Don Henriques, the owner of the ship had given him orders to follow my instructions 'till we

we reached the port of Callao: we had no sooner cleared the harbour than I had occasion to use my perogative, as master Pedro according to the general custom of the Spaniards, was hugging the shore close aboard. I asked him if he meant to coast it the whole way to Callao, which he answering in the affirmative; I told him I must beg leave to differ with him in opinion, observing that if he stretched off to sea, he would most probably meet with the winds at S. W. and we should not be so liable to calms; with great cheerfulness he committed the management of his ship to my direction; I accordingly ordered the helm a weather, and with a flowing sheet we ran away from the land till we made the island of Juan Fernandez, from whence we took our departure on the 28th. steering N. & by E. to N. N. E. it blowing very fresh from the Westward with a heavy sea setting from the S. W. and on the 8th. of February made the high land of Nasca, distant 7 or 8 leagues; here I resigned the command of the vessel to Signior Pedro, who in the morning of the 10th. brought us safely to an anchor in Callao harbour.

The port and town of Callao exhibit the scene of bustle and hurry incident to maritime towns; and being the depot for most of the commodities from both North and South, as well as the merchandize of Europe, by the way of Panama, and Porto Bello: merchants from both extremes assemble here in multitudes, which joined with those of Lima, render it by far the most considerable mart in the whole Spanish dominions. On every Monday throughout the year, a fair is held where every article produced in this vast empire may be purchased; dealers resort hither from all parts with their goods brought on
mules,

mules, droves of which may be traced in all directions; these goods are deposited in large warehouses kept by the proprietors of the mules; who amass considerable fortunes by the hire of these animals.

As soon as we got on shore, we hired a calash, and instantly set off for Lima, about six miles East of Callao. We stopt at the hotel of Don Juan De Velica, a man of the first distinction in the mercantile world as well as in birth. On receipt of our letters we were received with the most flattering marks of respect and attention, Alphonso, who was god-son to Donna Hortensia, the lady of Don Juan, was almost overpowered with caresses, she having left Chili when he was quite an infant, had ever retained a strong affection for him.

Apartments were immediately prepared for our reception; as Don Juan would not suffer us to seek any other habitation. During our stay at Lima, he introduced us to the Viceroy, who received us very graciously; and there was scarce any family of distinction to whom we were not particularly introduced—Great part of the nobility of Peru reside at this town, numbers, dignified with the titles of Counts and Marquises; also Knights of the military orders, and many opulent private families no less respectable, living in great splendor and opulence; particularly twenty four gentlemen, of great landed property, but without titles; tho' many of them possess family seats of great antiquity. One of these gentlemen traces his origin with undeniable certainty from the Incas. His family name is Ampuero, after one of the Spanish commanders at the conquest of the country, who married
into

into the family of the Inca. The Spanish monarchs have always distinguished it with particular privileges as marks of its antiquity and illustrious descent. Many of the nobility and eminent personages of Lima have anxiously sought alliances with them, and their intermarriages have blended them with the first families in Spain. These Peruvians live in the greatest opulence and splendour, having great numbers of slaves in their train; and generally three behind their coaches; they are remarkable for their suavity and gentleness of manners; no vexatious disputes, or litigious suits of law have ever been known among them.

The population of Lima is very numerous, and accounted by some to be more than twenty thousand white people, chiefly Spaniards; with a far more considerable number of Negroes, Mulattoes and their descendants, who for the most part are mechanics; not that the Europeans disdain to follow their occupations, which are by no means thought derogatory to them; for wealth being sought by all, they pursue its attainment by means of any occupation, regardless of its being pursued by Negroes, Mulattoes or Indians; who with their different casts are the last class of inhabitants, and few in number, compared with the second class. These are chiefly employed in husbandry and in bringing all kinds of provisions to the markets and other laborious services.

The dresses worn by the men, differ very little from those wore in Spain; nor is the distinction between the classes very great, as every one purchases according to his fancy, and the depth of his pocket; so that it is no uncommon thing to see a mechanic, of colour, dressed in
a rich

a rich tissue equally as expensive as those worn by the first grandees in Lima. They are in general very much attached to finery, and their passion in this particular is tolerably gratified; for Lima may be justly stiled Vanity Fair, being the general magazine of the most beautiful, elegant, and costly productions of fancy and art; not only collected from the remotest parts of this empire, but Asia and Europe; and the prodigious quantities of costly cloathing imported by the galleons and register ships sell here at exorbitant prices, and are very expeditiously expended; for they wear their clothes with such carelessness that they are very soon lain by. The ladies here are more profuse and extravagant than the men, and as their dresses are peculiar to the country, I shall endeavour to be a little minute in the description.

There is a kind of lightness in their habiliment not very congenial to the natural gravity of the Spanish character, and which at first they have some difficulty in overcoming their repugnance to; it consists of a chemise, a petticoat of dimity, an open petticoat, and a jacket, which in summer is of fine muslin, and in winter of tissue; the petticoat does not reach below the calf of the leg; a deep border of rich lace extending to the ankle is sewed to the under petticoat, through which the ends of their garters are seen, richly wrought in gold and silver. The upper petticoat is of velvet or some other rich stuff, ornamented with beautiful fringes of the most exquisite workmanship. The sleeves of the chemises are very long and covered with a profusion of valuable laces, variegated so as to render it truly elegant. Over all is worn a loose jacket, the sleeves of which are open and excessively large, also decorated

decorated with lace in rows. The body of the jacket is tied with ribbands fastened to the back of their stays; when it is not clasped before, it is airily tucked behind on the shoulders, and on the whole has a very elegant appearance: in the summer they wear a veil of the finest cambric curiously bordered with lace.

They are very particular in chusing their laces, never deigning to wear any but what are produced from the manufactories of Valenciennes, Mecklin, Brussels, &c. Their head dress is also worthy of remark; their hair which is generally of the most jetty black, reaching below their waists, they dispose in such a manner as to be perfectly graceful: they fasten their braids up with a golden bodkin with a cluster of brilliants at each end. On this the tresses are suspended so as to touch the shoulder: in the front of their hair they wear aigrettes of diamonds, which placed between their black curls have a striking effect: their earrings are of brilliants of the first water, which with their necklaces, bracelets, rings, girdles, buckles, &c. make them glitter and sparkle from head to foot: it is computed that many ladies when dressed for any publick assembly carry the value of from thirty to forty thousand crowns about them! a circumstance the more surprising, as it is so very common.

One singularity had like to have escaped me, which is, that the ladies of Lima value themselves on the smallness of their feet, a peculiarity I always thought confined to the Chinese ladies; from their infancy they always wear shoes that confine their feet, so that they may not grow beyond the size which they esteem beautiful; few of them exceed

six inches; the greatest fault they find with the Spanish ladies is their feet, being so much larger than theirs. Their shoes have little or no sole, one piece of cordovan serving both for that and the upper leather; they are of an equal breadth both at the toe and the heel: these shoes are fastened with buckles, those of persons of quality are generally diamonds, but they are more for shew than use; for the shoes are made so elastic that they never loosen of themselves. The sons of Crispin are no strangers to the foibles of their fair customers, being careful in making them too serviceable. The usual price is three half crowns a pair, if plain; those embroidered with gold and silver, are from eight to ten crowns. The upper circles wear them in the European fashion, but with wrought silver heels; the sound of which on the pavements, added to the smallness of the feet, has something in it very fascinating to a stranger.

The ladies are naturally sprightly, and free, without bordering on levity; they are extremely fond of musick, so that they are almost all of them performers on one kind of instrument or another; in general they are good vocal performers having fine voices; they have frequent balls, at which they distinguish themselves as well by the gracefulness of their persons as the agility of their movements: in short the reigning passion of the ladies are, shew, mirth, and festivity.

The natural good sense and penetration of the inhabitants of Lima, both men and women, are greatly improved by persons of learning, resorting hither from Spain; the frequency of their small assemblies have also a tendency to improve their minds; and give them a ready and happy expression,

expression, from an emulation to distinguish themselves in these engaging circles.

The manners and disposition of the nobility, correspond with their rank and fortune. Courtesy shines in all their actions, and their complaisance and hospitality to strangers are unbounded. Their reception is alike free from flattery, or a haughty reserve, so that all strangers who visit here either out of curiosity or from commercial motives, are charmed with their urbanity and munificence.

The persons of the women are in general of the middle stature, handsome, genteel, and remarkably fair, which is more conspicuous from the darkness of their hair, and eyes, which usually shine with enchanting dignity and lustre. Their personal charms are heightened by their mental accomplishments, and an easiness of behaviour, so well tempered, that while it invites love, it commands respect; the charms of their conversation are beyond expression; their ideas just, their expression pure, and their manners inimitably graceful; these are the enchantments which allure so many Europeans, who, forgetting their connexions at home, are induced to marry and settle here.

Notwithstanding these amiable qualifications, they have the fault of being too well acquainted with their own excellencies, and are tainted with a haughtiness which will scarcely give way to their husbands; yet, by their address, and insinuating arts of persuasion, they gain the ascendancy over them so far as to be left to their own discretion.

The natives possess a great share of pride, and shew much reluctance in the performance of a command delivered with haughtiness; but when given with mildness and affability, are equally obsequious and submissive. They are delighted with a gentleness of manners; and a few marks of kindness are not easily effaced from their memories. They are brave, and of an unblemished honour: they never give an affront, or put up with one received; and they live together in a social, cheerful manner. The Mulattoes, being less civilized, are haughty, turbulent and troublesome; yet the mischievous consequences arising from these vices are less common than might naturally be expected in such a populous city.

Lima is situated in the centre of a spacious valley, bounded on the North by the Andes; from whence some hills project towards to the city; the nearest of which are those of St. Christopher, and Amancaes. The river of Lima washes its walls, and a very spacious and elegant stone bridge is built over it, at the end of which is a gate which forms an entrance into the city, and leads to the grand square, in which is a fountain similar to that at St. Jago, but much superior both in magnitude and workmanship. In the middle is a bronze statue of Fame; the water issues through the trumpet of this figure, and also through the mouths of eight lions that surround it. On the East side of the square are the cathedral and archiepiscopal palace. On the North are the palace of the viceroy, the several courts of justice, the revenue offices, and the state prison. On the West side, the council house, and the common prison; and the South is filled with private houses, of one story, but their fronts being of stone, and a perfect uniformity reigning throughout the

the whole, gives it a delightful appearance. The city is of a triangular form, the base or longest side extends along the banks of the river. It is surrounded with a wall of brick, and flanked with 34 bastions, but without platforms or embrasures; the intention of it being merely to inclose the town, and render it capable of sustaining any sudden attack of the Indians. The houses for the most part are low, commodious and make a good appearance; the streets are broad, airy and built at right angles; they are well paved and watered by streams conducted from the river: towards the East and West parts are numbers of fruit and kitchen gardens, and most of the principal houses have pleasure grounds for the reception of company, which are continually refreshed by means of the canals.

The city is divided into five parishes, the churches of which are large, and adorned with paintings and other decorations of great value; particularly the cathedral, and that of the Jesuits, which are splendid beyond description, a proper idea of which can only be obtained from ocular demonstration. The altars, from their very bases to the frames of the pictures, are covered with massy silver, wrought in the most elegant and expensive manner. The walls are hung with velvet or rich tapestry with gold and silver fringes, and on these are various figures of wrought silver. The furniture of the altars is equally rich and magnificent: candlesticks of massy silver, six feet high, are placed in two rows along the nave of the church; chased stands of the same metal, supporting smaller candlesticks, are placed on either side the pedestals, on which are angels, large as life, in niches throughout the isles: in fine
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there is such a profusion of the precious metals that absolutely dazzles the sight, and astonishes the beholder.

The principal convents are large, convenient and airy. The portals have a majestic appearance; the columns and cornices are of wood, curiously carved, imitating the appearance of stone, so as not to be distinguished but by the handling: this imitation does not proceed from parsimony, but in order as much as possible to avoid the devastations of earthquakes, of which this city has had so many fatal instances.

The houses also are built of very slight materials but so managed as to have the appearance of stability and grandeur; the principal parts are of wood, mortised into the rafters, the walls are composed of wild canes and osier, which entirely enclose the timber; these are covered with clay, white-washed and painted to imitate stone; cornices, porticoes, &c. are added of the same colour, so that the whole imposes on the sight, and foreigners imagine them to be really built of the materials they imitate. Thus the houses are more secure than if built of more solid materials; for the whole fabrick yeilds to the tremulous motion of the earth, and the foundations which are connected with the several parts of the building, follow the same motion, and by that means are not so easily thrown down.

The government of the viceroy is triennial; this office is of such importance that the possessor enjoys all the privileges of royalty. He is absolute in all affairs, whether political, military, or civil, so that the grandeur of this employment is equal to the dignity of the title. He has his life guards, both horse and foot; their uniforms are blue turned up with red; the officers' richly laced with
silver

silver, and crimson velvet waistcoats embroidered with gold; these do duty in the palace and the rooms leading to the chamber of audience. Every day the viceroy gives a public audience to all ranks and conditions of the people, for which purpose there are three very grand and spacious rooms. In the first he receives the Indians and other casts; this is hung round with the portraits of all the viceroys his predecessors. In the second he gives audience to people of distinction; and in the third, under a rich canopy, where are placed the pictures of the reigning king and queen, he receives those ladies who wish to speak to him in private without being known.

The business of government is transacted by a secretary of state, assisted by an under secretary, from whose office are issued the orders for passports which must be obtained from every corregidore in his jurisdiction; all juridical employments are filled up by the secretary as they become vacant, for the term of two years: as also of the magistracy, who have not been replaced by the nomination of the king, at the expiration of their respective terms. Indeed this post is the channel by which all affairs of the government are transacted.

To enter into a minute detail of the different offices of justice, the revenues, the regulations of the corporation, &c. would swell this work much beyond my present design, therefore shall conclude with a cursory account of the productions, and cultivation of the soil, together with its trade and commerce.

The country round Lima enjoys a fertility truly enviable, producing every species of grain in the greatest profusion,

profusion, with an astonishing variety of fruits : a stranger would be apt to imagine that the contrary would be the case, where rain is so seldom seen; but here industry and art supplys that moisture nature seems to deny ; and the soil rendered abundantly fruitful amidst a continual drought.

Their olive plantations are very numerous, and in height, magnitude, and thickness of foliage exceed those of Europe ; the plough is never used, the only cultivation they require is to clear the holes made at the roots for receiving water, to keep the channels open which convey it, and every three or four years to cut down the superfluous shoots and scions, in order to form passages to gather the fruit. Without farther trouble the inhabitants have great plenty of the finest olives. The country contiguous to the city is covered with gardens producing most of the herbs and fruits known in Europe ; as well as those common to America, and the West India Islands ; all which flourish in an uncommon degree ; and are in constant succession, the whole year being as it were but one summer ; the seasons varying in the vallies, which are from the base of the Cordileros to the Sea, from the mountains ; when the fruit season is over in the vallies it commences on the skirts of the mountains, and they being at no great distance from Lima are brought thither ; by which means the city is constantly supplied with all kinds of fruit, except grapes and melons which do not come to perfection in the mountains.

They have grapes of various kinds, and among them a species which they call the Italian, remarkable for its size
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and flavour: The vines extend themselves on the surface of the ground, which is well calculated for that purpose: these vines thrive remarkably well with little or no culture.

The soil is stony and sandy, consisting of smooth flints or pebbles, which in many parts are so numerous, that as other spots are entirely of sand these are wholly of stone; and are very inconvenient to travellers, either on foot, in a carriage, or on horseback.

It is very singular that in this arid country there are abundance of springs, and water is every where to be found with little labour, not more than five feet below the surface: there are two probable causes from which this may arise; the one, from its open and porous quality it imbibes the sea to a very great distance, which is filtered in the passage: the other, that the torrents descending from the mountains disperse in the plains, and are admitted by the subterraneous veins through which they continue their course; for the stony quality of the soil does not extend to more than three or four feet, and underneath is a compact stratum, consequently the water must be conveyed to the most porous parts, which being the stony, it there precipitates into a subterraneous course, leaving the surface dry. These invisible canals are doubtless the cause of the great fertility of the soil; and seem a bountiful indulgence of the wise author of nature, who to guard the inhabitants against the sterility which would affect their country from a want of water, has sent a supply from the mountains, either in open rivers, or through the bowels of the earth.

The city of Lima has not attained its splendor from be-
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ing the capital of Peru; it is also the general staple of the kingdom, the principal and central depot for commerce of every kind; the productions of all parts of the world are brought hither in the galleons and register ships, and from hence distributed through the vast extent of these kingdoms. At the head of this commerce is the tribunal, del Consulado, which appoints commissaries to reside in other cities of its dependance, extending through all Peru. All the wealth of the southern provinces is brought to Lima; where it is embarked on board the fleet, which sails with the galleons from Callao to Panama. The same fleet returns to the harbour of Paita, where the most valuable part of the European goods are landed, in order to avoid the delay of sailing to Callao, which is a very tedious passage, and sent by land to Lima on mules.

On their arrival at Lima the merchants remit to their correspondents their several commissions: depositing the rest in warehouses to dispose of on their own account to the traders who at this time resort hither; or send them to their factors in the interior provinces, and the produce of their sale is sent to Lima in bars of silver: thus the traders have a double profit, first in the sale of their goods, and secondly in the returns of their silver, which they take at a much lower rate than what they get for it. All these sales may therefore be considered only as an exchange of one commodity for another.

The neighbouring coasts furnish Lima with wine, brandy, raisins, olives and oil; the wines are of different sorts, white, a light red, and dark red, some of which are of fine flavour, generous and exhilarating: the best are imported from Chili. The brandies are from Pisca, and tolerably good

good. Rum is only found in the houses of persons of the first distinction, who receive it in presents.

During the six weeks we stopped at this capital, Don Alphonso was unwearied in obtaining every information that could tend to instruct, or enlighten his mind. The cool of the mornings were employed in rides round the adjacent country, every part of which he most minutely investigated; the middle of the day passed in attending the courts, offices of commerce, or of the municipality; the afternoons and evenings were dedicated to parties of pleasure; and on retiring from which he usually spent a couple of hours in committing to paper his remarks on the transactions of the day.

The time we proposed staying at the capital being elapsed, we took our leaves of Don Juan, and his family, and being provided with necessary passports and letters of recommendation, we proceeded on our journey to Quito by land, taking advantage of the return of a courier who had brought despatches from Quito to the viceroy of Lima.

L E T T E R VI.

THE company consisted of the courier, Don Alphonso, myself, two servants we had brought from St. Jago, and a muleteer to take care of the mules laden with provisions and a tent to shelter us in the heat of the day, when too hot to travel. At day-break on the 24th. of march we began our journey, and reached the river Passamayo, which we forded, and arrived at Chancay the same evening, about thirty miles from Lima. The town is tolerably populous, having about 300 houses and Indian huts; several of the inhabitants are Spaniards of good families and fortune. We were entertained at the house of the corregidore with great hospitality, who procured us fresh mules. In the morning, having breakfasted, that officer accompanied us to Guara which we did not reach till midnight, the distance being upwards of forty miles. This town consists only of a single street about two thirds of a mile in length, and may contain about 200 families; it has a parish church, and a Franciscan convent. A beautiful plantation is on either side the road as you approach the town; the country eastward, as far as the eye can reach, is covered with patches of sugar canes, and to the westward the fields are filled with wheat, maize, and other grain; and in short the whole valley has a very charming appearance. On the

the next day we reached Patavirca, having forded the river Barranca with the help of guides which they call Chimbadores; we dined at the town of Barranca, a small place containing not more than forty houses, mostly occupied by natives. Near this town are the ruins of an ancient Indian structure and its magnitude confirms the tradition of the natives, that it was one of the palaces of the ancient princes of the country. The 27th. we took up our lodgings at Callejones a paltry hamlet where we could scarce get any water for ourselves or mules, we left this place and after a painful and dangerous journey of upwards of forty miles, over rugged precipices, and sandy plains, we reached the Tambo, (or inn) de Culebras, and taking a slight refreshment we pushed forward to Guarino a small town where we put up for the night. Our next day's journey was peculiarly troublesome, travelling over some very high hills covered with loose stones, which rendered the way so tedious, that we stopped at a plantation, where we rested a whole day. On the 31st. we proceeded to a small village, called Casma la Baxa, having not more than a dozen houses; about noon on the following day we came to a Tambo built by the Incas, for the convenience of travellers; the whole accommodations consisted of a single shed, situated on the banks of a river: being under very little obligation for our entertainment here, we departed without reluctance, and reached the town of Santa about midnight: here we found some difficulty in waking the people of the Tambo, so that we were like to have remained in the street all night; however, just as we were on the point of looking out for a place to pitch our tent, they opened the door of the inn, provided us lodging for our mules and a truss of straw for ourselves, on which we slept very comfortably till morning. After taking our
breakfast

breakfasts we took a walk to the sea side to view the remains of the ancient town of Santa, which was destroyed by an English buccaneer, named Davis, which obliged the inhabitants to abandon it and remove to a place of greater security.

It is a poor town consisting only of about thirty houses, most of which are of straw; its inhabitants are composed of Indians, Mulattoes and Mestees. To proceed on our journey we were obliged to pass the river Santa, about a mile and a quarter in breadth; this river runs with great rapidity.—At the place where it is fordable are a number of guides with horses, which are trained for the purpose of stemming the current: these animals were the tallest I ever saw. This passage is attended with considerable danger, as the sands composing the bed of the river are often shifted, so that the guides are sometimes carried away. We passed the Santa in safety, and slept in a poor place called Tambo de Chao—from whence to Biru, distant about fifteen leagues: this journey we passed very pleasantly, coasting, and fording a beautiful meandering river, whose various turnings refreshed and fertilised the surrounding country. We being now arrived within ten leagues of Truxillo we rested here two days, meeting with the alcaide of Mochè who happened to be here. This man owed his present post to the interest of Don Juan, and one of our domestics being known to him informed him who we were. Gratitude was a prominent feature of this Spaniard, which he evinced by the respect and attention he shewed to the friends of his old patron. We proceeded in company with our new acquaintance, Don Jerome, to Mochè, and passing one night under his hospitable roof, on the next day we arrived at Truxillo.

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In the towns we passed, from Lima hither, we found plenty of provisions, as butchers' meat, poultry, bread, fruits, and wine, extremely good and tolerably reasonable; but we should have been obliged to dress our meat ourselves, had we not had servants to do it for us; for in the generality of places travellers will not find any inclined to take that trouble off their hands, except in the towns of the first and second class, where the inn-keepers furnish the table themselves. In the smaller towns, or villages, the inns furnish nothing, but merely a shelter from the weather, so that travellers are not only obliged to carry their provisions from one town to another, but also all kinds of kitchen utensils. In the poorest village you may purchase tame fowl, pigeons, geese, &c. and in the cultivated parts of the country they abound in turtle doves, which feed entirely on maize, and the seeds of trees; these multiply exceedingly, and during our stay at Biru we had an excellent day's sport, shooting them: we found no other species of birds during our whole journey; nor were we annoyed by any beasts of prey or venomous reptiles, the Mosquito being the only troublesome intruder on the repose of travellers.

The city of Truxillo also claims the same founder as Lima. Its situation is not unpleasant, though the soil is sandy: a brick wall surrounds the town, which is placed in the valley of Chimo, about a mile and a half from the Sea. The port of Guanchaco, the channel of its maritime commerce, is two leagues to the northward; the houses are tolerably handsome, mostly of brick, decorated with balconies and porticos, but are low on account of the earthquakes, none having more than one story. The corregidore of the whole department resides here, who did us every

every good office in his power. There are more Spaniards in this town than in any since we left Lima, among whom are several rich and distinguished families: they appear affable, friendly, and sincere; their dresses and customs resemble those of Lima, but are considerably less profuse in the costliness of their habiliments.

In this climate there is a sensible difference between winter and summer, the former is moderately cold, but the latter excessively hot: the country is very fruitful, abounding with sugar canes, maize, fruits, and vegetables, with large vineyards, and olive-yards. Those parts near the mountains produce wheat; the natural fertility of the country has been greatly improved by art, so that the city is agreeably surrounded by several groves and delightful promenades, formed through avenues of lofty trees. Their gardens are also most skilfully cultivated, and make a most beautiful appearance, which with a continual unclouded sky, prove not less agreeable to the traveller than to the inhabitant.

Having rested ourselves a week at Truxillo, we hired fresh mules, provided a new stock of provisions and a guide, the courier having pursued his journey without us; we left this town on the 11th. of April at day break, and reached Chocope, a distance of eleven leagues, the same evening.

There are about sixty families in this town, in which there is nothing remarkable, except a traditional phenomenon which happened about a century ago, viz. There was a continual rain forty nights, beginning constantly at four or five in the evening, and ceasing at the same

same hour in the morning, the sky being remarkably serene and cloudless all the rest of the day; this deluge intirely ruined all the houses; what greatly astonished the inhabitants was, that during the whole time the southerly winds not only continued the same, but blew with so much force that they raised clouds of sand, though wet and rendered heavy by the continual showers. Two years after a similar rain lasted for ten or twelve days, but was not so fatal to the inhabitants: since which time nothing of the kind has happened, nor had any thing like it been remembered ever before to have occurred.

St. Pedro was the next resting place; here is a convent of Augustines, which consists only of a trio of members; The prior, priest, and his curate; the community of one hundred and fifty families, chiefly Indians and other casts. It is seated on the banks of a river, called Pacasmayo, its neighbourhood also produces grain and fruits in abundance.

Having passed the river Xequetique, we proceeded onwards to the sea coast, took up our quarters at Las Lagunas, and at noon the next day arrived at Lambayeque, a tolerably populous town, owing to the inhabitants of Sano having repaired hither when their town was sacked by the English adventurer as before mentioned. Four leagues from Lambayeque is the small town of Morrope. The next thirty leagues of our journey being across an extensive desert, we prepared accordingly, and besides everyone of us taking a skin containing a gallon of water, we loaded a spare mule with as many skins as it could carry; for during our whole passage we saw nothing but hills of sand formed by the winds; but neither spring, herb or flower, or any other verdure whatever. The ex-

tent and same appearance of the desert in every direction, added to the continual motion of the sand, rendered the tracks imperceptible, and often puzzles the most experienced guides—when thus at a loss, they have too expedients to extricate themselves from the labyrinth. The first is, on their return from Lima, to keep directly before the wind; and vice versa on going to Lima. The second is to take up a handful of the sand at different distances, and smell to it, for as the excrements of the mules impregnate the sand they determine the road by the scent of it.—We arrived at Sechura the 12th. on producing our passports we were politely accommodated by an officer belonging to the *corrigidore*, who was at Piura, the capital of the district, whither we proceeded, and arrived about noon the next day.

This town is famous for its being the first settlement the Spaniards made in Peru. It was founded in 1531 by Don Francisco Pizarro, who also built the first church in it. It was originally called San Miguel de Piura, and was situated in the valley of Targafala, from whence on account of the deleterious quality of the air it was removed to where it now stands, which is on a sandy plain. The houses are either of bricks or reeds, with only a ground floor. Here is an office of the royal revenue, superintended by an *acomptant* or treasurer, who is relieved every six months by another who resides at Paita; at which port he is stationed to receive the duties for all the goods imported, and also to prevent smuggling; and at Piura for receiving the revenues and merchandize, liable to the duties, consigned from the mountains of Loja; or going from Tumbes to Lima.

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This city contains near fifteen hundred inhabitants of the different casts ; the climate is hot and very dry, notwithstanding which it is very healthy, Here is an hospital under the care of the Bethlemites ; and though patients afflicted with all kinds of distempers are admitted, it is famous for the cure of a very fashionable disorder among the bucks and bloods of the present day.—Accordingly here is a great assembly of the wounded and disabled partizans of the Cyprian corps, who are restored to their former health, by a less quantity of specific than is used in other countries, and also with greater facility and expedition,

The whole of the territory of this jurisdiction produces only the maize, cotton, a few fruits and esculent vegetables ; the inhabitants apply themselves to breeding of goats, great numbers of which are killed for their tallow and skins, the former of which makes soap ; for which they are sure of a good market at Lima, Quito, and Panama. Their skins are dressed into cordovan leather, and for which there is also a great demand in the above cities. Another branch of its commerce is the Pita, a kind of plant of which a very strong thread is made. They derive also great advantage from the hire of their mules ; for all the goods sent from the northward to Lima are obliged to be transported hither on the mules of this province : and from the immense quantity of goods coming from all quarters, some idea may be formed of the number of beasts employed in this trade ; which continues throughout the year, but are prodigious at the season when the rivers are exhausted by the drought and rendered fordable.

Our journey from Piura to Tumbez took us four days, being a distance of upwards of sixty leagues, chiefly through deserts of scorching sands, thick woods swarming with Mosquitoes, and over barren mountains; sometimes we followed the margin of the sea which had rendered the sands more compact, and easier for the mules; as they sink in the loose sands so as to render the way very tedious and painful; some part of the way can only be passed at low water, and as the tide rushes in with great rapidity, woe to the traveller who is overtaken by it; but with great perseverance and extreme caution, on the fourth day in the evening we arrived safely at Tumbez.

This was the spot where the Spaniards first landed, in 1526, under the command of Don Francisco Pizarro; here he entered into several conferences with the princes of the country, who were vassals to the Incas; if the Indians were surpris'd at the sight of the Spaniards, the latter were equally so at the prodigious riches which met their eyes; on every side the magnitude of the palaces, castles, and temples, built of stone, whose strength and grandeur seem'd to challenge the test of time; but they are gone, "and like the baseless fabrick of a vision, left not a wreck behind."

From Tumbez we departed at sun-set in order to avoid its scorching rays reflected from the sands, this distance, which is seven leagues, is extremely troublesome, inso-much that it can never be performed in the day-time: for travelling seven leagues there and back, without either water or fodder, is too laborious for the mules to perform but in the night; there being no fresh water to be had at the Salto; a drove of mules therefore never
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sets out from Tumbes till an account is received that the goods are landed ready for them, otherwise they must return without, as it would be impossible for them to make any stay.

On the 16th. in the morning we embarked on a Balza from the coast of Machala for Puna, and arrived there on the 17th. a vessel being ready to sail to Guayaquil, we embarked, and a pleasant passage of three days carried us to that commercial city; we no sooner presented our passports at the Babahoyo, or custom house, than the greatest attention was shewn us, and we were conducted to the city by one of the principal officers; and as Don Alphonso had some letters for the Corregidore, we immediately repaired to his residence; unfortunately he was at that time at Quito; but we had no great cause for regret, as we had other letters to people of the first distinction, as well as credences to one of the principal merchants, at whose house we took up our abode.

The great influx of strangers drawn hither by commerce, has so increased the number of its inhabitants that there is not a town of its size so populous throughout America: altho' Guayaquil is as hot as almost any part, it is very singular that the natives who have not experienced a mixture of blood in their families, are fresh coloured, and finely featured; they are indeed reckoned the handsomest in all Peru; and it is curious to observe that notwithstanding the heat of the climate, the natives are not tawny; and that the Spaniards (who in Europe are thought remarkably so) have children by Spanish women, extremely fair; what renders it the more singular is, that other towns having the same advantageous situation, produce

produce no improvement in the complexion of their inhabitants; whereas, here, fair people are the most common, and the children have universally light hair and eyebrows, and the most beautiful lineaments. Besides these personal advantages, bestowed by nature, they are no ways inferior to the inhabitants of the first cities on this continent in the no less captivating charms of dress, elegance and politeness.

The inhabitants of Guayaquil are very ostentatious in their entertainments; which is not very frequently relished by strangers. The first course is composed of a variety of sweetmeats, the second of the most poignant ragoos, fricassees, &c and thus they continue to serve up an alternate succession of sweet, and high seasoned dishes; the most common drink is grape brandy, cordials, and wine; of all which they drink freely during the entertainment; but I preferred the wine. Punch has been lately introduced, and has taken the lead of every other liquor; as it has been found to agree very well with the constitutions of this climate. It has therefore obtained greatly in the houses of people of distinction, who generally take a glass or two in the afternoon, and again in the evening. Thus at the same time allaying their thirst, and correcting the ill qualities of the water, which near the town is very brackish, and promotes an excessive perspiration: this custom has become so prevalent and fashionable, that the ladies punctually observe it; and it not being made too potent becomes equally wholesome and refreshing.

In the winter which commences in December and lasts till May, the inhabitants of Guayaquil are assailed by
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the elements, the insects, and vermin, which seem to have agreed together to plague and harass the human species. The heat is intense and the rains continue day and night for whole weeks, accompanied by dreadful peals of thunder, and flashes of lightning, which appear like sheets of fire, threatening universal ruin and devastation. The rivers, indignant at being circumscribed by bounds, burst their limits, and overwhelm the adjacent country. Innumerable swarms of insects and vermin infest both air and ground in an intolerable degree—Snakes, vipers, scorpions, and various other insects infest the houses of the inhabitants, to whose poisonous and deadly fangs many annually fall victims: though they are not free from them all the year, yet at this time, they are so numerous that it requires the greatest watchfulness, care and attention to keep the beds clear from them. All persons here, even the negro slaves, are obliged to have mosquito nets over their beds to keep off these noxious intruders.

Though all hot climates swarm with a variety of poisonous insects, yet they are no where known to be so numerous and troublesome as at Guayaquil; they are also terribly pestered with rats, who are so little afraid of the human species that they will not suffer themselves to be disturbed on the approach of any one, but continue undisturbed at their meal, in the pantries or on the shelves, till knocked on the head. These inconveniences which seem insupportable to strangers little affect the natives, who being accustomed to them from their infancy, are more affected with the cold on the mountains, which Europeans scarce feel, or at least think very moderate, than with all these disagreeable invaders of their repose.

Our business detaining us no longer, we embarked on the 20th. of April for Caracol, where after a disagreeable and tedious passage of seven days we arrived. We saw many alligators basking on the banks, some of them eighteen feet long; and in form nearly resembling a Lizard; they lie with their mouths wide open, till filled with mosquitos, flies, and other insects, when they suddenly close their jaws, and swallow their prey; whatever may have been said of this monster, with regard to its fierceness and rapacity, certain it is, they avoid a man, at least in the day time; for on their approach they instantly plunge into the water. Its whole body is covered with scales impenetrable to a musket shot, unless it hits them on the belly near the fore legs, which is the only place that is vulnerable.

The alligator is an oviparous creature. The female makes a large hole in the sand, on the river's side, and there deposits her eggs, which are nearly equal to those of an ostrich; she generally lays to the number of an hundred, continuing in the same place till she has done laying, which is generally two days; she then covers them with sand, and the better to conceal them, scratches up the sand a good distance about them, then rolls herself all round, that the ground may appear perfectly smooth and even. After this precaution she returns to the water, till instinct informs her, 'tis time the young captives be delivered from their prison; when she comes to the spot followed by the male, and scratching up the sand, breaks the eggs, but so carefully that it is very rare that they injure one of them, and presently the spot is covered with young alligators, the dam then gathers them about her, and takes as many as she can on her neck and
shoulders

shoulders to carry them to the water; peculiar birds of prey called the Gallinazos*, are always watching the motion of the alligator at this season, to seize any of the straggling fry; and even the male alligator who comes for no other end, devours all that come in his way; and

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* These birds are inveterate enemies to the alligators, and extremely fond of their eggs, in finding which they evince great address and sagacity. They watch the female alligators during the whole summer, the season when they lay their eggs. The gallinazo lights in a neighbouring tree and conceals itself in the foliage, and there silently watches the careful dam, till she lays her eggs and retires; she is no sooner under the water than the feathered robber darts on the repository, and with its wings, claws and beak, tears up the sand, and devours the eggs; it is joined by a numerous herd of the same species, who flock from all parts and share in the spoil.

This bird is of the size of a turkey; from the crop to the bill, it has a wrinkled, rough skin, covered with fleshy excrescences. Its feathers are black, with a brownish tint; the bill is strong and a little crooked. They have so quick a scent that they will smell a carcase ten or twelve miles; and never leave it till they have reduced it to a skeleton.

When the gallinazos find no food in the towns, hunger forces them into the country, among the beasts in the pastures; and on seeing any of them with sores on their backs, they stoop at it and attack the affected part. In vain the poor animal endeavours to free itself from its tormentors, either by rolling on the ground or hideous cries; for they never quit their hold, but with their bills and talons so widen and lacerate the wound, that the creature soon expires.

follows the female till she reaches the water with the remaining few; for those which either fall from her back or do not swim, she herself eats; so that out of such a formidable brood, happily not more than four or five escape.

These amphibious monsters are great destroyers of fish; it being their general food; they are very sagacious and cunning in obtaining their prey. Eight or ten as it it were by agreement range across the mouth of the river, whilst others of the same corps go a considerable distance up the stream, alarm and pursue the finny tribe downwards; by this manouvre scarce a fish of any size escapes them. When they have cleared the river of the fish, they betake themselves to the adjacent meadows, and seize on calves, colts, &c. and it is observed that when once they have tasted flesh, they become so fond of it as never to eat any more fish, but when constrained by the calls of hunger: children straying in the dark often become their prey, and having seized the victim, they hasten to the water, where they drown it, and then rise to the surface and glut themselves at leisure.

The inhabitants are very industrious in catching and destroying these monsters. They take a piece of hard wood, pointed at both ends, covered with the lungs of some animal, which they fasten to a stout thong, or rope, the end of which is secured on the shore; the beast seeing the lungs float on the water, snaps at the bait, and swallows it, wood and all; they then drag him ashore, and soon put an end to his existence.

We were miserably tormented on our passage by the mosquitoes; nor were we better off on our arrival at Caracol, which determined us to pursue our journey without loss of time; so having provided ourselves with the best mules, for which we paid something more, as the prices are fixed according to the sagacity and experience the beast has had in this hazardous journey.

We left Caracol the 28th. and traversing an extensive savannah of twelve miles in extent, we arrived on the banks of a pleasant river, which we crossed several times in the course of the day; towards sunset we halted at a place called Puerto de Mosquitos. The name of this place, where we were about to take up our lodging, plainly indicated what we had to expect, and indeed we were not mistaken; for it was no sooner dark than we were assailed by myriads of these infernal insects, so that we passed the night in the most excruciating torture; and in the morning were so mauled that we scarce knew each other; and it was with great pain we could pursue our journey.

Passing through a very thick forest, we were again surprised at the same river being still before us, and after fording it several times, found ourselves obliged to halt on its banks once more, to our great grief and vexation; as we expected our cruel tho' diminutive foes to renew their attack; but whether they had been satiated by fresh objects, or loathed our tumid carcasses, already compleatly blown up by their fellows, whose leavings they did not relish, I know not, but although kept in continual alarm by their slumber-breaking hum, which in spite of the day's fatigue, kept us awake nearly the whole night, we

did not experience any fresh attack. Our next stage was to Caluma, or the Indian post. Here we fortunately found a kind of habitation which had been built for a person of distinction, who had lately travelled this way. As we proceeded towards the mountains, we found a sensible difference in the air. On the 2nd. of May we passed a beautiful cascade, the water precipitating itself from a rock near seventy feet in height, the base of which is excavated thirty or forty feet, so that you may pass between this immense column of water and the body of the rock; which forms a pleasing and grand appearance.

From hence we continued our journey, and about midnight reached Tarigagua, a town at the foot of the mountain, very much fatigued with our day's march. Having passed a tolerable night, at a little after seven in the morning we commenced our ascension of the mountain of St. Antonia, and reaching about halfway, at one halted to rest the mules, and take some refreshment. The difficulty of our progress this day almost made us repent that we had not taken shipping at Guayaquil for Quito; for the roads were so narrow, the paths so slippery, and the precipices so numerous and steep, that the least false step of the mules must have dashed us into eternity. With great terror and anxiety we reached the summit, when the descent appeared to us equally replete with danger and difficulty: all we had to do was to place our reliance on the faithful and experienced animals who had brought us so far on our journey; and our guides assured us, that with the beasts who now had the honour of supporting us, we had nothing to fear; for they were the most sure and experienced on this road. Accordingly the animal proceeded with the utmost caution, and when on the top of
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an eminence where the declivity appeared too steep for them to keep their feet, they stopped; and placing their fore feet close together, but a little forwards, in order to stop themselves; and drawing their hind feet also forwards, as if going to lie down; in this attitude they pause for a moment, as if to take a survey of the road; then start forward, and slide down with inconceivable swiftness. We had nothing to do but keep ourselves fast in the saddle, without checking the beast; for the least interruption would destroy the equilibrium, and precipitate both down the most frightful precipices. The address of these creatures is really wonderful; for in this rapid motion they follow the windings of the road, as if they had accurately reconnoitred the way and had predetermined the rout they were to follow. The animals appear thoroughly conscious of their danger, and though accustomed to the road are never entirely free from a kind of dread or horror when they arrive at the top of a steep declivity; for they stop without being checked, nor will they move forward till they have put themselves in the aforementioned posture: and indeed seem to be actuated by reason; for they not only attentively view the road, but tremble and snort at the danger; which if the rider be not accustomed to, or apprised of these emotions, may fill them with terror and dismay: when the animal evinces a repugnance to proceed, the Indians go before, and place themselves along the sides of the mountain, holding by the roots of trees, and animate the animals with shouts till they at once start down the declivity.

These flights, as I may call them, may perhaps extend to a hundred or a hundred and fifty feet; many there are that are not bordered with precipices, but then the road
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is so narrow, that it is scarce wide enough for your passage; and should any accident upset the mule, its rider must necessarily be crushed, and for want of room to disengage himself, seldom or ever comes off without a broken limb, if he escapes with life.

It is really curious to see the poor animals after having overcome their first emotions of fear, with what precision they stretch out their fore legs to preserve an equilibrium, that they may not fall on either side, and with what judgement and dexterity they incline their body to follow the several windings of the road; and lastly their address in stopping themselves when at the end of their impetuous career. Our mules had been long accustomed to this rout and being esteemed the most experienced on the road, were highly valued for their skill and address.

The ascending these steepes are also attended with great fatigue and labour; being obliged to send two three Indians before with a kind of hoe, with which they cut trenches, or steps to assist the mules in their ascent; we had chosen the worst season for performing this journey as the heavy rains had just set in, and destroyed the footsteps of the mules that had passed perhaps only a few days before, and the soil being chalky and continually wet rendered it extremely slippery and difficult.

We were two days encountering these horrible roads, when we came to a narrow pass in the mountains, called by the Indians, Pucara, which signifies a gate, a name, possibly derived from its narrowness and the natural strength of its situation. The descent from this place became more gradual, and in the evening of the 7th. we arrived

arrived at Chimbo. Here we were surprised at being met by a multitude of the inhabitants, among whom were several religious, of the Dominican order, and the principal people of the town, who were came to congratulate us on our safe arrival. As we proceeded into the town they formed themselves into two bands, and singing and dancing on each side us, escorted us to the convent of the Dominicans, who hospitably insisted on our becoming their guests.

This salutation of the inhabitants is not peculiar to the people of Chimba ; for there is no small emulation between the several towns in these districts, in paying these congratulations, when persons who have any appearance of respectability enter their towns.

As we passed the mountains of Pacura we descended into a spacious and fruitful plain, some leagues in circumference, covered with wheat, barley, maize, and other grain; this was a most agreeable prospect to us, as we had now left the most disagreeable part of our journey behind us. We were very hospitably entertained at Guaranda by the holy fathers and its chief magistrate, who detained us some days in order to recover us from the fatigue we had undergone in crossing the mountains.

On the 12th. we proceeded onwards and began to cross the desert of Chimborazo, leaving the mountains on the left ; now the greatest inconvenience we underwent proceeded from the cold, the snow lining completely the sides of the hills, though the road was not free from irregular heights and precipices ; but this was child's play to what we had before passed. After passing the night in our tent, near the ruins of an ancient palace of the Incas, the next
day

day at noon we reached Mocha; this being a very paltry village with not more than half a dozen houses, after taken a slight refreshment we pursued our way, and reached Hambata, a village of the same description, where we took up our night's lodging.

After passing the river of St. Miguel we arrived at Latacunga, where we dined, and in the evening rested at Mula Halo. We rose early, and as we approached Quito saw the remains of many grand edifices, formerly the residences of the princes of the country: towards the close of this day's journey we came to the foot of a mountain, from whose summit we could see the city of Quito, about nine miles distant: we passed the night in a tambo, at the foot of the hill.

Having the land of Promise before us, we set off at day break, and traversing Tura Bamba, or the muddy plain, which only has any affinity to its name but in the depth of winter, being interspersed with beautiful plantations and seats of people of the first distinction: We entered the city of Quito before noon. We alighted at an inn to give us time to rub off the dust, and make ourselves a little decent before we made our appearance in the presence of Don Alphonso's friends, who were people of the first rank.

In order to form an adequate idea of the country we passed in this disagreeable journey, it will be but fair, after being so particular in describing the unpleasant parts, and the dangers to which we were exposed, to say something of its productions, &c. The lands, between Caracol and Guaranda are of two sorts; the first extending to Tarigagua is
entirely

entirely level ; and the second, which begins at that place, wholly mountainous; both of which till beyond the pass of Pucara are full of thick forests. The mountains which from this chain of the Andes are, on the west side, covered with woods, but are entirely bare on the east side. Among these mountains the river of Guayaquil has its source.

The level parts being the warmest, are inhabited by great numbers of birds and animals, among the latter are a species of monkey, called Marimonday, which are so very large that when standing erect they are more than five feet high ; they are black and very ugly, but easily tamed; we saw many of them at Quito.

In the forests is a remarkable tree which they call Matalo, or kill-tree; it is of itself weak, but growing contiguous to another of considerable bulk, insinuates itself in contact with it; and when thus supported, by its quick growth presently shoots above it, when expanding its branches it deprives its neighbour of the rays of the sun: nor is this all, for by imbibing the juices of the earth, the other withers and dies. After which it becomes lord of the soil, and increases to such a bulk that the Indians make canoes of it; for which it is better adapted than any other timber, being very light and fibrous.

Having refreshed and put ourselves in a decent trim we proceeded to the residence of Don Miguel d' Ibarra, a near relation of Don Henriques, who filled the post at Quito, of Protector de los Indios (protector of the Indians) under whose father Don Henriques had studied in order to qualify him for the same situation, which he now filled at St. Jago.

We found Don Miguel a middle aged man of the most engaging manners and cheerful deportment ; blessed with an amiable spouse and a numerous offspring of ten beautiful cherubs, the eldest of which had not attained its eighth year. Our reception was one of those kind of welcomes that not only delighted for the moment, but made a lasting impression on the heart.

In this hospitable and friendly mansion we resided during our stay at Quito, which was nearly three months, every day of which we experienced fresh proofs of friendship from our worthy host. He was indefatigable in informing his young relation, Don Alphonso, on every subject worthy his attention, and gave him a clear idea of the importance of this extensive province, analyzing its governments and minutely describing not only the several jurisdictions into which they are divided, but even every individual town, with geographical, historical, political, and physical observations on each ; which to recapitulate would swell this volume to the bulk of a folio ; I shall therefore, for the present content myself with a few of the most prominent particulars ; as the description of the city, customs and tempers of the inhabitants, natural productions, &c.

The town of Quito is a few miles to the southward of the Equinoctial line, about 120 miles to the eastward of the Sea coast : on the northwest is the famous mountain and desert of Pinchincha. The city is built on the base of that mountain and furrounded by others of a middling height, the irregularity of the ground renders the streets very uneven and disagreeable, as well with regard to appearance as convenience. It is not easily reconcileable to the

the general good sense of the inhabitants, that having two such beautiful plains so near the city that they should prefer so unfavourable a site; for, though latterly there has been no fiery irruptions, yet the mountain was formerly a volcano; at present no smoke or signs of fire are visible, yet the inhabitants are frequently alarmed by subterraneous noises caused by wind confined in its bowels, which call to their minds the tradition of their fore fathers, of the devastations which have formerly happened. Pinchincha is reckoned more than two miles in height, and near its summit covered with ice and snow, considerable quantities of which are brought to the town, to cool the liquors and fruit of people of fashion.

The inequalities of the streets preclude the inhabitants from the convenience of coaches, or any other wheel carriages. Persons of rank, have servants attending them with large parasols; and the ladies are carried in sedans. Here is a large square in which are the public offices, the palace of the audience, the cathedral, and Episcopal palace. The four streets terminating at the angles of the square are strait, broad, and handsome, and which are the only ones in any degree tolerable.

The principal houses are large, and have spacious apartments, but most have but the ground floor. The materials are unburnt bricks which last a long time if sheltered from the rain; they are cemented together by a species of mortar, of uncommon hardness, the secret of making which they derived from the Indians, who used it in their buildings; many remains of which are still to be seen in all parts of the kingdom; notwithstanding the remarkable

inclemency of the weather; a sufficient proof of its strength and duration.

The city is divided into seven parishes. The cathedral is splendidly adorned with tapestry and other costly decorations; but the other parish churches are so mean that some of them have scarce the requisites to perform publick worship. There are several colleges, monasteries, and nunneries, the churches of which are well built and richly decorated, especially on solemn festivals, when it is amazing to behold their vast treasure of wrought plate, rich hangings and costly ornaments, which heighten the solemnity of the worship and increase the reputation of them for their magnificence.

The festivals of Corpus Christi, and the Conception of the Blessed Virgin are celebrated with great pomp; when all the courts, offices, and persons of eminence always assist. The singular ceremony of the procession of the host is worthy observation. All the houses in the streets through which it passes are decorated with rich hangings; triumphal arches are erected with superb altars at stated distances, on which the spectator sees immense quantities of plate and jewels, fancifully disposed in such an elegant manner as to render the assemblage more pleasing than the prodigious quantity of riches.

A month before the celebration of these feasts the parties select a number of Indians, who are to be the dancers. These immediately begin to practice the dances they used before their conversion to christianity. Within a few days of the solemnity they dress themselves in a
doublet

doublet, a shirt and a woman's petticoat, adorned in the gaudiest manner they can devise. Over their stockings they wear a kind of pinked buskins on which are fastened a number of small bells. Their face they cover with a mask formed of different coloured ribbons. Dressed in this fantastical manner, they call themselves angels, unite in companies of eight or ten, and rove about the streets, highly delighted with the tinkling of their bells: thinking it a religious duty, without fee or reward they continue this ridiculous exercise a whole fortnight before the festival and a month after it, without minding their occupations or their families, rambling about the whole day without being either tired or disgusted, though the number of their admirers daily decrease, and the applause which they at first universally receive is at length turned into ridicule, and contempt.

Quito is very populous, and contains some families of high rank and distinction; though their number is small considering its extent: the poorest classes bearing here too great a proportion. The former are the descendants either of the original conquerors, or persons who have possessed lucrative posts; and have preserved their lustre both of wealth and descent by intermarriage, without intermixing with baser families though famous for their riches. The inhabitants are much the same as in the other towns, being composed of Spaniards, Mestees, Indians, and Negroes. A Spaniard here signifies a person descended from a Spaniard without a mixture of blood; many Mestees having a fresh complexion appear to be Spaniards; they are the descendants of Spaniards and Indians, and some have such fair complexions, that were it not for some particular marks which betray them when viewed attentively they might

might pass for whites. These signs are a remarkable lowness of forehead which leaves but a small space between their hair and eyebrows, and the hair grows remarkably forward on the temples, and is harsh, lank, and very black; their nose very small, thin, and has a prominence in the middle, rather approaching to the aquiline; these besides some dark marks on the body, are so constant and invariable as to make it very difficult to conceal the degeneracy of their blood.

The generality of the Spaniards, as is reasonable to suppose, are the most eminent for riches, rank, and power; yet they are in proportion, the most poor, miserable, and distressed; as they would rather starve than apply themselves to any mechanical business, considering it as an indelible stain to that quality they so much value themselves on; which consists in a purity of blood, and not being of a black, brown, or copper colour. The *Mestees* whose pride is regulated by prudence readily apply themselves to arts and trades. The Indians are generally bricklayers, shoe-makers, weavers, &c. &c. but they are all indolent and slothful to a proverb; for example, if you want a pair of shoes, you are often obliged to procure the materials, seize on the Indian, and lock him up till they are finished. This is owing to a bad custom, that of paying before hand; for when once the Indian has got the money he spends it all in *Chica**, so that while the money lasts he is never sober; and it is natural to think that it will not be easy afterward to prevail on him to work for what he has already spent.

Their

* This liquor is made from maize, by the following process. The maize after being soaked in water till it begins to grow, is dried

Their dresses here are something different from those at Lima. The men wear a black cloak, under which they have a long coat, reaching down to their knees, with close sleeves, open at the sides, without folds; along the seams of the body as well as on the sleeves are button holes, and two rows of buttons for ornament. In every other particular people of fortune are very magnificent and profuse in their dress, wearing commonly gold and silver tissues.

The Mestees in general wear a blue cloth, manufactured in the country; and though the lowest class of Spaniards are very ambitious of distinguishing themselves from them, either by the colour or fashion of their cloaths, little difference is to be seen betwixt them.

The Indians have a dress peculiar to themselves, which consists of a pair of coarse white cotton trowsers, which reach to the calf of the leg, and are edged with a lace suitable to the stuff. In lieu of a shirt they wear a black cotton frock made in the form of a bag with three openings in the bottom, the middle one for the head, and the corner ones for the arms, and this covers their naked bodies to their knees. Over this they wear a kind of serge cloak with a hole in the middle to put their head through; a hat made by the natives completes their dress; and which they

dried in the sun, then parched a little, and at last ground. The flour after it has been well kneaded, is put into a large vessel, and left two or three days to ferment. Its taste is nearly that of indifferent cyder. It is a refreshing, nourishing and aperitive liquor, but it will not keep more than eight or ten days without turning sour.

they never lay aside, not even while they sleep; and use has so enured them to the weather, that without any additional cloathing, or covering for their legs or feet, they travel in the coldest parts with the same indifference as in the warmest.

Those who have acquired some fortune, particularly the barber surgeons, who are the most industrious and active among them, are very careful to distinguish themselves from their countrymen, both by the fineness of their trowsers and also by wearing a shirt, though without sleeves. Round the neck of their shirt they wear a lace three inches in breadth, hanging intirely round like a ruff. A favourite piece of finery is gold or silver buckles for their shoes; but they wear no stockings or other covering on their legs. Instead of serge they wear a cloak of fine cloth, and not unfrequently adorned with gold or silver lace.

The dress of the ladies are so nearly similar to those of Lima, that a description would be too like a repetition, and tedious. The Caciqueesses or Indian women who are married to the Alcaydes and other officers, are careful to distinguish themselves from the common people by their habits; which is a petticoat of baize decorated with ribbons; over this they wear a black manteau, wholly open on one side, plaited from top to bottom, and fastened round the waist with a girdle: instead of a veil they have a piece of fine linen dyed black and plaited very full, hanging down from the back part of their head almost to the bottom of the petticoat. This they fasten before with a large silver bodkin. Their head dress is a piece of fine linen curiously plaited, and the ends hanging down behind;
this

this is worn both for distinction and ornament; also to preserve themselves from the heat of the sun.

These ladies, that their superiority should not be disputed, never appear abroad without shoes. Their dresses, with those universally worn by Indians, either men or women, are the very same with those used in the time of the Incas, in order to distinguish the several classes. The Caciques at present use no other than that worn by the opulent Mestees, namely, the cloak and hat; but the shoes are what chiefly distinguishes them from the common Indians.

The men, both Creoles and Spaniards, are well made, of a good stature, and a lively, agreeable countenance. The Mestees, in general are well made, and rather taller than the common size, very robust and tolerably well featured. The Indians, both men and women are generally short, but well made and very strong, though more defects are observed among them than in the other classes: some are dwarfs, some dumb and blind, others deficient in some of their limbs. Their hair is thick and long, and they are so fond of it that to cut it off would be the greatest affront you could offer them. Any other punishment their masters think proper to inflict, they bear with a passive resignation; but this is an injury they never would forgive; and accordingly government has found it necessary to interpose and permit this punishment only for the most atrocious crimes. The Mestees by way of distinguishing themselves from the Indians cut off their hair, but the women do not follow their example. The Indians have no beard, and the only alteration occasioned by their arriving at years of maturity, is a few straggling

hairs on their chin, but so short and thin as never to require the visitation of a razor; nor have either males or females any indications of the age of puberty.

The want of proper employments added to the natural sloth of these people, and the great neglect of education in the common classes, are the causes of that fondness for balls and entertainments, and which are carried to such a degree of licentiousness, as is seldom equalled, and never to be exceeded in any country: this is the effect of the rum and chica which are drank in great quantities on these occasions.

It is remarkable that the Indian women, whether maids or married, and the young men, before they are of an age to contract matrimony, are never guilty of these excesses; it being a maxim among them, that none but the masters of families have the privilege of getting drunk; who when they are unable to take care of themselves have others to take care of them.

In these entertainments the women present the calabashes of chica to their husbands till their spirits are exhilarated, then one plays on the tabor and pipe, while the others dance, and when tired with exercise and intemperance, they all lie down promiscuously together; without regarding whether they be close to the wife of another, or their own sister or daughter. These entertainments sometimes continue several days, till the priest comes among them; who throws away all the chica, destroys the jugs and disperses the assembly. It must be however understood that no person of rank or character is ever seen at these assemblies.

Gaming

Gaming is also in the list of their vices, and in this persons of rank and opulence lead the way; and of course their example is followed by their inferiors, oftentimes to the entire destruction of themselves and families. Those who have become dupes to fortune frequently have recourse to theft; in which they are very artful and dexterous. They do not want for assurance and audacity in committing a robbery, though otherwise arrant cowards. At dark they strip themselves to their trowsers, and greasing themselves all over, lay in wait for the passenger, dart upon him and snatch his hat, with which they are sure to get clear off; for if you seize them in the fact they slip through your fingers like an eel, and being exceeding swift of foot it is impossible to overtake them. However trifling the prize may seem, it is very often of considerable value, being in general of white beaver, and worth from fifteen to twenty dollars; besides the band of gold or silver lace, mostly fastened with a gold buckle set with diamonds or emeralds. No other kind of highway robbery is known here; but burglaries are not unfrequent; in order to prevent this as much as possible, the streets are patrolled all night; and in case any are committed the officer of the guard is obliged to make restitution. Mestees and Indians do not deem the taking any eatables as a robbery.

In Quito and all the towns and villages under its jurisdiction, different dialects are spoken; Spanish being no less common than the Indian. The Creoles in particular use the latter with the former; but both are wretchedly adulterated with factitious, barbarous, words and expressions. The first language generally spoken by the children is that of their Indian nurses, many of whom un-

derstand not a word of Spanish. Thus the children being first used to the Indian pronunciation, the impression is so strong on their minds that few can be taught to speak the Spanish before they are five or six years old; and the corruption adheres so strong to them, that they speak a jargon composed of both: this also obtains among the Europeans, and even persons of rank, when they begin to understand the language of the country; so that a Spaniard himself not accustomed to their dialect has often need of an interpreter.

Their marriages appear the most eccentric of their customs; for they never make choice of one who has not been previously enjoyed; which they consider as a certain indication of their personal attractions. When a youth has fixed his eye on the woman he intends for his bride; he asks her of her father, and having obtained his consent, they begin to cohabit together as man and wife, and he assists the father-in-law in his avocations. At the end of three or four months, sometimes a whole year, he quits the lady without any ceremony, frequently reproaching the intended father-in-law for endeavouring to impose on him a wife whom nobody had thought worthy to make a bedfellow. But if no disgust arises on this account, or any other, after passing three or four months in this commerce, to habituate themselves to each other, they marry. This custom is still prevalent in spite of the endeavours of the whole body of the clergy to put a stop to it. Accordingly they are obliged to be absolved from this sin before they give them the nuptial benediction.

Their ostentation in rendering the last offices to their deceased relations exceeds all bounds; and in many instances

stances has been the ruin of the survivors, in endeavouring by a ridiculous emulation to surpass each other. The deceased must have died in very mean circumstances indeed, if all the religious communities, together with the chapter of the cathedral, are not invited to his funeral, which consists of upwards of two hundred persons; and during the procession the bells are tolled in all the churches, and the obsequies are performed in the most expensive manner. The houses are filled with jugs of chicha for the solace of the mourners and visitors; the latter go out into the streets and invite all that pass by to come in and drink to the honour of the deceased. This ceremony lasts four or five days, and sometimes more.

Quito is happily situated, neither the heat nor cold is troublesome, though the extremes of both are felt in its vicinity; but what renders this equality delightful is, that it is constant all the year; and their summer and winter nearly the same. The mornings are cool, the remainder of the day warm, the evenings and nights of the most agreeable temperature. The winds are healthy, and they have continual refreshing breezes, but never any violent gales; the usual points they blow from are North and South, though they are sometimes variable, without any regard to the season of the year. These continual breezes protect the country from the violent and disagreeable impressions of the ardent rays of the sun, so intolerable in most climates in the same parallel of latitude: and were it not for some inconveniences to which it is subject, it might be considered as one of the most happy spots on the globe.

Its scourges are so dreadful that its beauties are not sufficiently ample to compensate; for here are the most
terrible

terrible and amazing tempests of thunder and lightning, and the still more destructive earthquakes, which often surprize and confound the inhabitants in the midst of security. The whole morning till noon, the weather will exhibit a bright sun, and a serene, clear sky; presently the vapours begin to rise and the whole atmosphere is disfigured with black and threatening clouds, which bring such dreadful peals of thunder and lightning, that all the neighbouring mountains tremble, and the city too often feels their dreadful effects. Impetuous torrents descend with that violence that the streets are rendered impassable, and many houses washed away by the deluge. This dreadful scene lasts till sun set, when it clears up, and nature resumes the beautiful appearance of the morning. Sometimes the rains continue all night, and they have been known to last three or four days to the terror of the inhabitants, and the destruction of great part of their property.

The difference between the seasons is not very perceptible to strangers; the interval between September and April are the winter months, during which the rains prevail, the summer months are very fine, but should a fortnight elapse without rain, the inhabitants are alarmed, and public prayers are offered for its return. On the other hand, when they continue any time and they are any ways incommoded by them, they are possessed with the like fears, and the churches are filled with supplicants for fine weather; for too much rain destroys the fruits of the earth, and a drought is productive of dangerous disorders: thus are they under continual apprehensions. The rains are not only desirable to allay the intense heat of the sun, but highly beneficial in cleansing the streets, which from
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the extreme filthiness of the common people would be insupportable.

From some unknown quality in the air, Quito is almost entirely free from all kinds of insects which infect hot climates, except the Nigua, or what in the West Indies is vulgarly called a Jigger. It is something like a flea in shape, but infinitely smaller, it insinuates itself into the feet and legs so imperceptibly that you can scarce be aware of them; the first indication of their having made a lodgement, is an itching of the part resembling the sensation caused by a childblain; they are at first extracted with little pain, but if suffered to make good their quarters, they form a nest between the skin and the flesh; where they lay their eggs, and according to their number the nest increases in size to a quarter of an inch, or more; they become extremely painful, and if not extracted will make their way to the bone; of which I have seen many shocking instances, owing to the sloth and filthiness of the people. The greatest nicety is required in extracting them, if unfortunately the nest should burst, the greatest care should be taken to clear away all the roots, particularly not to leave the Jigger behind; for before the wound could be cured there would be a new colony further within the flesh, and consequently the cure must be more painful and difficult.

The degrees of heat and cold are so happily determined that there is a never ceasing moisture, and the earth seldom or never fails of being cherished by the fertilising beams of the sun, some part of every day; and there being no sensible difference of the seasons, the stranger is agreeably
surprised

surprised with the appearance of the fruits and beauties of the several seasons at the same time.

The agricultural operations of reaping and sowing are also performed together; for while that corn which has been recently sown is coming up, that which has been longer in the earth, is in its blade, and the more advanced begins to blossom. So that the faces of the neighbouring hills exhibit all the beauties of the four seasons at a single view.

Provisions of all kinds are in the greatest abundance, and in delicacy inferior to no country whatever. The beef is sold in the market, by quarters, for four Rials, about two Shillings and three-pence, English; mutton in the same manner, and when very prime, a whole carcase will fetch a dollar. Other species are sold by the lump, and the price regulated by custom.

Their fruits are in the greatest abundance, and not only consist of all those congenial to warm climates, but also of those natural to colder regions; as strawberries, apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, &c. Fruit is the first thing served up at table, and the last taken away; besides the beautiful contrast they form with the other dishes; it is a custom among the people of rank, to eat it alternately with their other food, of which there is always great variety.

Added to these natural advantages, the province of Quito possesses numerous gold mines, many of which from various accidents have been abandoned, and the veins entirely lost. The remembrance of the opulence
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of former times still subsists: not only the capital but the towns and villages were then very populous, and many of the individuals were famous all over Peru for their prodigious wealth. The rich mines in the jurisdiction of Macas were irrecoverable lost by a revolt of the Indians, and the situation of them entirely forgot. The mines of Zaruma have also been abandoned for want of a sufficient number of hands, and the art of working the ore lost. The same decline now seems to pervade the whole province; the fertility, as natural to the climate, still continues in all its plenty; but scarce the shadow of its former lustre and magnificence remains; that immense wealth in which it once gloried is no more, and the riches of the country lie buried in its bosom; the fertility of the soil cannot alone supply their wants; so as to spread through the provinces an air of opulence and grandeur like those observable in the other provinces of Peru; where by the circulation of silver there is an universal appearance of affluence, splendour and gaiety.

The commerce of the province of Quito is chiefly conducted by Europeans. The manufactures of the province are cottons, various cloths, and stuffs; which meet with a good market at Lima, for supplying the interior provinces of Peru. Gold and silver fringes, wine, brandy, oil, copper, tin, and quick-silver, are the principal returns. The traders at the time of the galleons arriving at Carthegena, repair hither to purchase European goods, which at their return, they disperse throughout the extensive kingdom of Peru.

A trade is carried on, by the inferior order of the people, in wheat, and would admit of great improvement,

were not the freights so excessively high, that the trouble and expence of carrying it to those parts where there is a scarcity of grain, renders it almost impossible to get a living profit.

The inland or reciprocal commerce consists in the barter of the produce of one jurisdiction, for those of another, and is a constant incentive to the industry among the inhabitants of the villages, and the lower class. This trade is attended with considerable profit to the traders, and advantage to the country; as almost all persons who do not reside in the capital, wear goods manufactured in the country; as those from Europe are so high priced, that only people of affluent fortunes can afford to wear them; therefore the quantities of cloths and stuffs worn in this country are immense: and to this in a great measure is owing the happy and prosperous state of the province.

L E T T E R VII.

WE now began to think of preparing for our journey to Mexico, and as Don Miguel had some concerns which rendered his presence necessary at St. Miguel D'Ibarre, where he had some large possessions, he accompanied us so far on our journey. This town is the capital of the jurisdiction, and is situated in an extensive plain, a small distance to the westward of the Cordilleros, and is betwixt two beautiful rivers which keep the whole plains in a perpetual verdure.

The dampness of the soil is attended with some inconveniences, as it rots the foundation of the houses, and causes them to be frequently under repair. It is of a tolerable size, with broad streets, built at right angles: here are many stately edifices of stone, the middling sort are of brick, and all tiled with a beautiful red tile, which from the purity of the clay appears to be highly varnished, and produces a very pleasing effect. It is surrounded by a suburb, inhabited by Indians whose cottages are neat, but mean and poor; as in the generality of places in this country. It is supposed to contain about twelve thousand souls.

Here we continued some time, during which we took several rides about the neighbourhood. The air is mild

and temperate, and most of the farms have plantations of sugar canes, from which they make great quantities of sugar. Those near the mountains are cultivated for maize, wheat, and barley; here are also great numbers of sheep, and goats; and the Indians weave a considerable quantity of cloth and cotton,

Don Miguel having procured us fresh letters of credit for Panama; and given us a strong recommendation to the governor, we took leave; and proceeding westward soon arrived at Tumaco, a small port in the jurisdiction of Acamanes; where a brig being on the point of sailing, we embarked for Panama; and arrived in that harbour on the 20th. of September, after a tedious passage of three weeks. This harbour is called Perico, and is the rendezvous of the Peruvian fleet during the fair at Porto Bello; and is never without a number of small coasting vessels of all denominations.

Our reception by the governor was remarkably kind and flattering; and during our stay in this town we were continually attended by two of his gentlemen, who by their good offices rendered the time we remained here very agreeable.

This town makes a very handsome appearance, and the streets both of the city and suburb are strait, broad, and well paved. The houses were formerly of wood, but the town being almost entirely destroyed by fire, the greater part of them are rebuilt with stone. The decorations of the private houses are elegant but not costly; and the inhabitants are not so immensely rich as in some parts of America, yet all have a sufficiency, and many
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of them wealthy; so that if Panama be not classed among the most opulent; it is far from being of the lowest class of towns.

Though from its situation it might produce abundance of grain, and fruit, as well as other towns in its neighbourhood; but the inhabitants are so attached to commerce, that agriculture is totally neglected, and the land left entirely to nature. From hence proceeds a scarcity of the fruits of the earth, and consequently they are sold at a very high price; as the inhabitants are obliged to be supplied with every thing, either from the coast of Peru, or places in its own jurisdiction.

The commerce of this town is very extensive, it being the general depot of the treasure from Peru, as also of all the European goods brought up the river Chagre, from Porto Bello, and Carthagena. The president of Panama is invested with the power of licensing one or two ships every year, to go to the different provinces of New Spain, who bring from thence, tar, naptha, and cordage for the vessels that frequent the port of Panama.

The dearth of provisions in this city and its district, occasioned by the great consumption, and their receiving it from other provinces, is amply compensated by the value and quantity of the pearl found in its gulph; there are few persons in the town who do not employ all, or great part of their slaves in this valuable trade; and as a description of the fishery may not be unentertaining, I shall give it a place in this letter.

The Negroes employed in this fishery must be expert swimmers, and capable of holding their breath a long time,

as their business is performed at the bottom of the sea. The owners send parties of them to the islands in the gulph, where they build themselves huts; as they are sometimes out for a week together. Eight or ten of these negroes in a gang with a superintendant, go to such parts where they know there are beds of these oysters, and come to an anchor in ten or twelve fathoms; then fastening a cord round their bodies, the other end of which is secured to the boat, they take a small weight to accelerate their sinking, and plunge into the water. On reaching the bottom, they pick up the oyster, which they put under the left arm; the second they hold in their left hand, and the third in their right; with these three oysters, and frequently another in their mouth, they rise to breathe, and deposit their prize in a bag. When they have rested themselves awhile, and recovered their breath, they dive a second time; and thus continue till they have compleated their task.

Each of the divers is obliged to deliver to his master so many pearls per diem; so when they have got their number of oysters, they begin to open them, and deliver the pearls to the superintendant, till they have made up the number due to their masters; if the pearls are ever so small, so they are formed, it is sufficient. The remainder, however large and valuable, are the Negro's own property, nor has the master the least claim to them; the slaves being allowed to sell them to the best bidder: though the master generally gets them at a small price. And as they cannot always make up the number, from various causes, he is obliged to make up the deficiency with the overplus he obtains on a more fortunate day; so that all things considered their advantages are but very trifling.

This

This fishery is not only attended with great toil and labour, from the oysters strongly adhering to the rocks, but great danger, from a species of fish, which sometimes seize the negro, or crush them with their weight against the bottom. The Taburones, and Tintoreras which are of an enormous size, feed on the bodies of these unfortunate fishermen; and the Mantas either press them to death by wrapping their fins round them, or crush them against the rocks. The name Manta is not inapplicable to these monsters, either with regard to its figure or property; for being broad and long like a quilt, it wraps its fins round its prey and instantly squeezes it to death. This fish has some resemblance to the Thornback in shape, but prodigiously larger.

The Negroes, to defend themselves from these ravenous creatures, carry with them a sharp knife, with which if the fish offers to assault him, they endeavour to act on the defensive, by wounding it in a part where it has no power to hurt him, on which the fish immediately flies. The superintendents keep a sharp look out for these monsters; and on discovering them, shake the rope fastened to the negroes' bodies, that they may be upon their guard; sometimes when the divers are in danger, they will plunge into the water to their assistance, but too often their gallantry is of no avail, and all their dexterity cannot protect the divers from being devoured, or losing some of their limbs.

The pearls of these fisheries are generally of a fine colour, and some very remarkable both in shape and size: few of them are sent to Europe; the greatest part being carried to Lima, where the demand for them is very great

great, being not only universally worn there by all persons of rank, but also sent from thence into the interior parts of Peru.

The gold mines in the neighbourhood were also a great source of their wealth, the richest of which is in the province of Darien; but the Indians revolting, the miners were drove from it, and many of them killed; and after several attempts to recover it, were finally obliged to abandon the idea, whereby the greatest part of the mines in that province were lost; a few only remaining on the frontiers which still yeild a considerable quantity of gold.

As we were preparing to cross the Isthmus, in order to visit Porto Bello, and Carthagene, we received letters by a vessel from Callao, that stopped our progress. They had been sent by a courier to Don Juan de Velica, who had forwarded them from Lima by a vessel then under sailing orders for this port, and were inclosed to his excellency the governor; praying him to have the goodness to forward them to Mexico, should we have quitted Panama ere they arrived.

The purport of these letters was to hasten us back to St. Jago; for that during our absence the president of Chili had died, and Don Henriques was advanced to the dignity of president, ad interim, till his majesty's pleasure should be known with respect to the successor; and that Don Alphonso was to succeed his father in the office of Patron of the Indians. These changes required our immediate return; and a vessel being nearly ready for sea, bound to Callao, we were determined to take our passage in her.

His

His excellency, the governor, congratulated Don Alphonso on the advancement of Don Henriques, his father, as well as his own; and invited us to a grand entertainment, at which every person of rank in Panama was present, and we were most sumptuously entertained; after which was a ball, which continued till morning. The ladies were very brilliant, though not so superbly decorated as at Lima. Their outward garment nearly resembles a *Chemise de la Reine*; the sleeves are very long and broad; open at the hand, and bordered with very fine lace, as is the bosom, which they are not very niggardly of showing. They wear girdles of gold, with rich necklaces, and strings of pearls elegantly entwined in their hair, with bracelets, also of gold or pearls. Their petticoats only reach to the calf of their legs, and from thence to a little above the ankle hangs from an under one a broad lace, whose transparency displays a most beautiful embroidered clock on a fine silk stocking. The tout ensemble of their dress has something very pleasing; they are lively, handsome, good humoured, and excellent dancers; indeed it was with reluctance we took ourselves from the fascinating company of these charming women, who had contrived engagements for us the whole ensuing week; which, the ship being quite ready, we were almost under the necessity of being rude; not to comply with.

We embarked on board the *Felecia*, of about two hundred tons, on the 10th. of October, and with a pleasant breeze at north east, soon lost sight of the land. It continuing in the same quarter with little variation, we on the 18th. made Cape Blanco; off which we were baffled by a calm, which lasted three days; on the fourth the wind came about to the W. S. W. which carried us into Callao har-

hour on the 4th. of November; we instantly waited on Don Juan, who was overjoyed to see us, and much chagrined that circumstances would not permit us to make any stay. Accordingly, after having spent a most agreeable week here, we took the advantage of a vessel belonging to Valparaiso, in which we sailed, and arrived in that port after a most favourable passage of twenty-eight days. It being dark when we came to an anchor, we slept on board that night. In the morning on going a shore we were received with the greatest respect by the principal merchants, and warmly congratulated on our safe arrival by the governor, who gave us the pleasing intelligence of the president and his family being in perfect health, and were anxiously expecting our arrival.

The day being too far advanced to think of reaching St. Jago that night; we dined with his excellency, Don Joseph de Mendoza, and in the afternoon rode to his country villa, about six leagues on our way, where we spent the evening very agreeably; Donna Anna, his daughter, a young lady of about nineteen, doing the honours of the house; the governor being a widower. After supper, Donna Anna at the desire of her father, had her harp brought into the room, and touched it with such skill and grace, that my fellow traveller was quite enchanted; after running over several pieces with amazing execution, she accompanied a serious air with her voice, which for melody and compass surpassed any thing I had ever heard, and completed the conquest of Don Alphonso's heart.

The minutes passed swiftly on, till it was time to retire, which my friend did with great reluctance, taking his leave of Donna Anna with the most profound respect, but with

with that kind of expression that convinced me he was deeply smitten; for the lady, independant of her acquirements, possessed a most elegant form; and though rather dark, a set of the most animated, lovely, and interesting features; which with a native gracefulness in every action, and a mind enlightened by the care of a parent, who in himself was the centre of every science, was sufficient to enslave a person of a much colder constitution than Don Alphonso.

Having taking leave of Don Joseph before we went to rest, at day break we pursued our journey; and at five o'clock in the afternoon arrived at St. Jago, to the mutual happiness and satisfaction of all parties.

My reception was as warm as a noble and disinterested friendship could make it; for my dignified patron was entirely divested of that hauteur which is so generally attached to elevated situations, and so chilling to those around them. The benevolence of his heart shone forth in the benignity of his countenance; and what was not proper to grant, he denied with that urbanity, that chagrin and disappointment seldom clouded the brow of those who retired from his presence.

Visits of congratulation, balls and entertainments, consumed the first ten days of our arrival, after which Don Alphonso was invested with his post; and his excellency having previously founded my inclinations respecting England, and finding they would suffer no violence by my remaining in America, honoured me with a very lucrative and respectable situation, under his son. This appointment was as acceptable to Don Alphonso as to my-

self; the duties of his office rendering it necessary for him to make frequent visitations to the different jurisdictions, which compose the government of Chili; in which circuits he would still retain me as his fellow traveller.

My time passed very agreeably, and as I was become a proficient in Spanish, the routine of my office soon became familiar. The time of visiting the districts approaching, Don Alphonso became very thoughtful and absent, infomuch that the president questioned me as to the cause, in such terms that I thought it my duty to acquaint him with my suspicions respecting Donna Anna de Mendosa; this intelligence did not seem to meet with an unfavourable reception, but the conversation took a different turn, and he left me in an uncertainty as to his opinion on the subject. The next morning Don Alphonso came in to my apartment before I was up, and told me that his father had charged him with an attachment for Donna Anna; his confusion, he said, had betrayed the secret, and that his father had left him without his being able to ascertain whether the avowal had met with his approbation, or dislike.

During a week we were in the utmost suspense, for his excellency prevented either his son or myself from being alone with him, and his outward behaviour was such that it was impossible to penetrate his designs. At last Don Alphonso came to me overjoyed, he told me he had obtained his father's consent to pay his addresses to his adored Donna Anna, and that they would be sanctioned with the approbation of Don Joseph; for that his father had wrote to him immediately on discovering his secret, that he had concealed the pleasure he experienced on the discovery,

least

least his approbation might make any other disappointment the more severe: that he was much pleased at his choice, and he had his permission to wait on Don Joseph as soon as he pleased. I congratulated him on his future happiness, and as he was impatient to be gone, the next morning accompanied him about a dozen miles on his journey.

During his absence I applied myself to the Indian tongue, and having a tolerable facility in the study of languages, was soon enabled to hear and determine differences between them without the help of an interpreter.

About six weeks after the departure of Don Alphonso, an accident happened in the family of the president, which put a stop to the nuptials of his son, (the day for the celebration whereof had been named) and plunged not only the family of his excellency, but the whole town in the deepest affliction. As Donna Lucia was sealing a letter she had been writing to her brother, a spark from a small wax taper unperceived caught her cloaths, and being alone was in a blaze before she knew it: her shrieks brought the servants about her, but their assistance was too late, and she was so shockingly burnt that she survived but a few hours.

This unhappy catastrophe for a time cast a gloom over the amiable and noble family of Don Henriques, till at length the period prescribed by custom to mourning being elapsed, the nuptials of Don Alphonso were solemnized; and his lovely bride, Donna Anna, soon became such a favourite with Donna Marcia that the settled melancholy which clouded her fine features since the loss of her charming Lucia, began to disappear; and the royal
mandate

mandate, confirming the appointment of Don Henriques, as governor and captain general of the province of Chili, arriving at the same time, completed the cure; and the joy of the whole province evinced their hearty concurrence in the choice of their sovereign.

We had taken our Indian circuit of the districts to the S. W. previous to the marriage of Don Alphonso, and in a journey of near four months, the particulars of which I shall reserve for another opportunity, we were remarkably fortunate. Don Alphonso, by his address and admirable management quieted a spirit of discontent, which had began to evince itself among the Indians, on the banks of the Biobio; and which, but for the timely interference and conciliatory talents of their new patron, had involved the whole province in the horrors of war.

While we were preparing for a journey to the northward, an express arrived by the way of Buenos Ayres, from Spain, announcing the death of Don Henriques' brother, who had left his nephew sole heir to his wealth, and that his presence was necessary to take possession of the estates which had devolved on him.

Accordingly the resignation of his post being absolutely necessary, it was conferred on the nephew of the corrigidore of Concepcion; and as it was the general desire of the whole family, that I should accompany Don Alphonso to Spain, a deputy was appointed to hold my office till our return.

Understanding that a frigate was in the river of Plate, waiting some despatches from the viceroy of Lima, we determined

determined on that route, and taking an affectionate leave, proceeded on our journey across the mountains, which was very troublesome and tedious, till we came to the town of Mendoza, the principal family of which, was nearly allied to Don Joseph, the father in-law of Don Alphonso. Here we rested two days, and having procured fresh horses and guides, continued our journey till we arrived at St. Louis de Loyala, about fifty leagues to the eastward of Mendoza; where we fell in with two Jesuits, who had been on a visitation to some of the western missions, and were on their way to Cordua. We were mutually pleased with this rencounter as they were men of great information and pleasantry. On our arrival at Cordua we parted with our companions, and in a week to our great satisfaction safely landed at Buenos Ayres; for great part of the way from Cordua we had descended the river of Plate in canoes.

The despatches arriving from Lima a few days after, we proceeded down the river to Monte Vido, and were politely received on board the Santa Terefia, of thirty-six guns, commanded by Don Frederick D'Ajuca, which lay off the town.

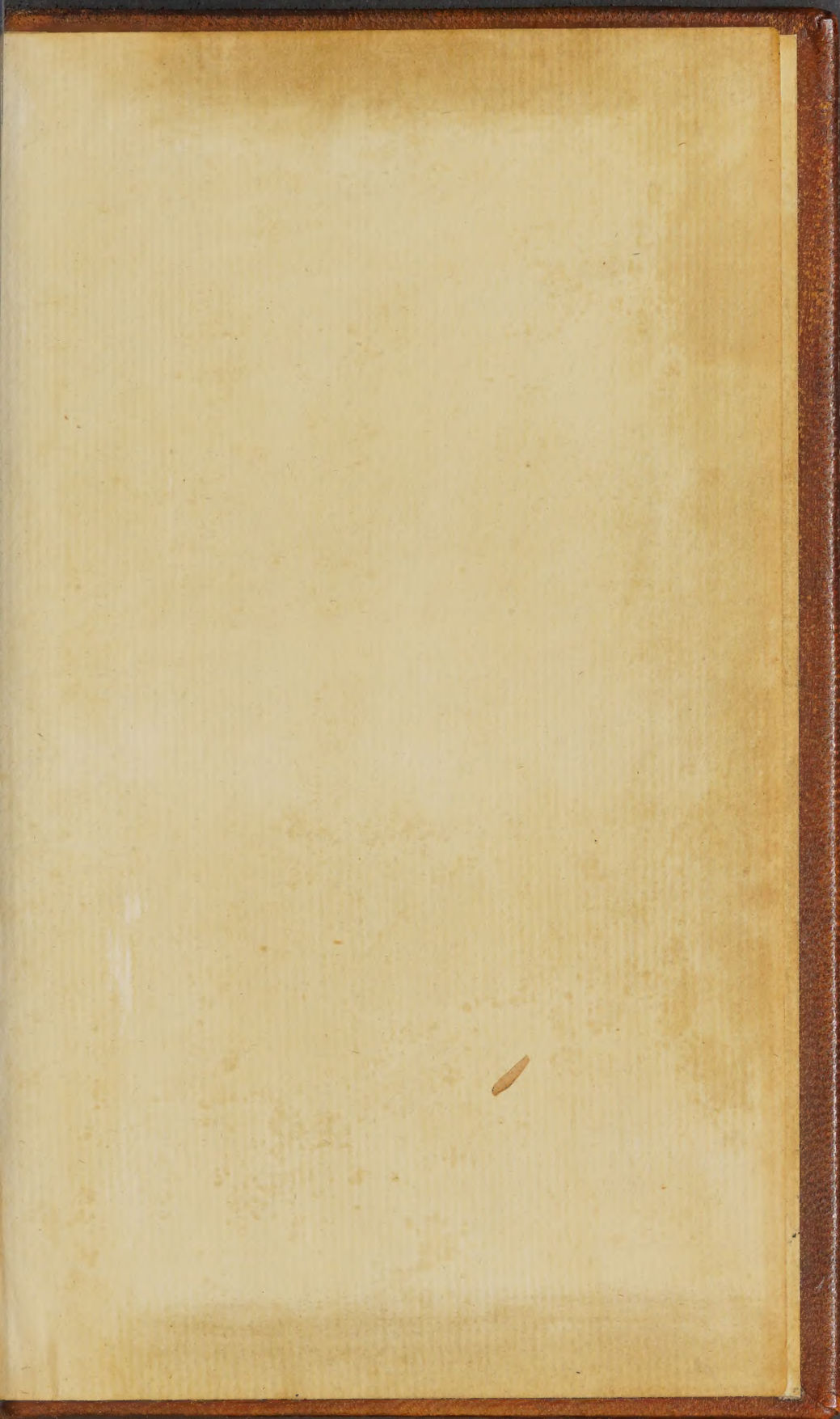
At day break next morning we saluted the fort and got under weigh, our passage was remarkably favourable; for in less than ten weeks we were safely landed in the harbour of Cadiz, and immediately proceeded to Seville, contiguous to which lay the possessions of Don Alphonso.

Don Alphonso was received by a distant relation of the deceased with all imaginable respect, and put in immediate

mediate possession of the estates of his uncle. After which, leaving me at Seville, he proceeded to Madrid, where he was introduced at court, and experienced a most gracious reception. In the mean while, I endeavoured to gain some information respecting England; the result of which you are thoroughly acquainted with. I shall endeavour before my return to America, to transmit you the particulars of our journey and voyage from St. Jago to Europe, of which you have here but the outline, as well as some observations made during the residence in this country, of

Your very sincere friend,

F. C.



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